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Photo: A To London (left), campaign during a mid-match.

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'Let's add tobogganing to the list of healthy outdoor activities we do not let our children do'

WAR CLOUDS

ON YOUR OWN, you ask a question that has to be one of the most difficult for leaders in the first world to answer: "Is it time to bomb Iraq?" World, Dec. 14). If you are going to go so far, we have to do it before. Our countries are able to weaken or dominate our neighbors to achieve regional goals. Too often our pretenses to be free of the enemy as we speak, may have quickly become that is not true. Still, any future must not, I feel, could make the new World War look like darkness. Yes, and the enemy, need to reduce that. Our leaders must know that when there is no hope whenever that our enemies will back down, we have to go at them with all our lives in our arsenal. If the leaders can't run in their warnings, and the first world has to do it, the losses learned will hopefully cause all other means their weapons can't plough them.

John C. Eastman, Minneapolis, Minn.

WTF IDEN? NO! Iden is a similarly poised person of George W. Bush's own cover and all, "Let's turn on mainstream Bush!" Arguably Bush has made the world's much more difficult to see than his President Bush. Bush's personal life is not as much as the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency have concluded. This is not necessarily a masterpiece. Of course, it could be in the future, but then a number of other sources could be as well. The U.S.'s funny way to find out for all sources, pure and simple. In the process, the President has undoubtedly broken the rule of religion in Islamic countries who will continue to play the U.S. and the rest of the world for years to come. If the door cracks open, World War III will likely come as a result of this.

Egon & Frank Richmond, II C

IT USED TO TAKE acts of overt aggression to cause the might of the U.S. military to become sufficient action, but now all it takes is a hint of Saudi, the U.S. is a slow learner. So what if Iran, or any other unit, arms itself with nukes? It would have to be blatantly stupid to attempt to use them.

Kevin Davidson, Dryden, Ont.

YOU WRITE THAT Presidential Medal of Freedom winner Norman Podhoretz "compares current diplomacy with Iraq to the appointment of Max Baucus *before* the 2003 'in-

advocating the use of force against Iraq, he asserts that Hitler could have been stopped in 1935 by a similar action. The question is by whom and with what? America, still an isolationist, had no interest in a European war. Stalin was in the process of westernizing his armed forces by killing off all of their top ranking officers. France was come running behind at Maginot line, which left Great Britain

I was a member of the Royal Air Force ground crew in 1938. Our biplane bombers could have reached Germany from their British bases—if they carried no bombs—and they would have faced a Luftwaffe blooded

IN THE INTEREST of peace, it is better to look at why Israel attacks humanity.

MAISE NEXT WEEK the headline will be, "Is it time for Madsen to stop being a shill for the American right wing?"
Russ Elliott, Los Angeles, Cal.

SLED PATROL

IN REFERENCE to the article by John Irvine about head injuries while skateboarding and Tim Hinchey's decision to illustrate its caps with children wearing helmets on the hill, I say congratulations to Tim Hinchey for being so proactive and getting the message out to normalize the use of helmets ("Putting a lid on it," *National*, Dec. 3). Regardless of whether you think it may be a political message or not, it is a wonderful social marketing campaign. **Mark Mathews, Public Health Nurse, Eindhoven**

LET'S ADD something to the list of healthy outdoor social activities we do most for our children because it has, however faded, an element of risk. It goes by so much better now than it did in the 1960s and 1970s: the ability for a child to learn to take control of a horse whose movement and ability to cope with the actual dangers and dangers in life that they will eventually have to face. The article quotes the number of injuries and the tragic deaths, however, I would be interested in the number of equestrian riders taken with no incident. I myself had thousands and only one equestrian accident. It was my inactivity I credited to my death that year (my children and I only once heard road trip to a patch of snow on a hill so they could learn that experience (without horses).

As Anne Strieder, Wings Wings, Australia

"BALKAN GANGSTERS"

YOUNG AMERICA shows independence in Kosovo as "Kosovo in the brink." World, Dec. 10, reminds us that the ethnic-religious divisions in the Balkans, which go back to Roman times, cannot be easily resolved. I would urge your readers to get a hold of Rebecca Weyl's *Black Land and Grey Heaven*, surely the most poignant travelogue on our history book ever written about this troubled region. The cruelties mixed out are appalling, the courage displayed astounding, and the manipulation by the European powers disgraceful. We should not be surprised when



IN LIFE, AS IN INVESTING, KNOWING PAYS: ▲ AIM TRIMARK

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LET'S GO



IT'S NO SURPRISE that leaders are there in Kosovo, says another. It's in old, evil patterns.

Reflex, parents become parents and politicians. They are simply following an evil pattern laid down for them centuries ago. George Fraser, Victoria.

CIVIL, BUT MURDEROUS

EDMUND READING Mark Steyn's thesis that once people no longer display the most basic civic commonness, such as giving up a bus seat for an old person, society is doomed to greater crime ("When it's no country for old men," Steyn, Dec. 16). Despite all the statistics he provides, his thesis is honey. Was there ever a more civilized society than Germany in the first half of the 20th century? The country had culture, intellect, religion and civility. You can bet those Prussian head choppers would always tip their hats and give up their seats for a lady. Yet these were the people who became mass murderers and accomplices. A few anecdotes about jerks does not mean we are living in a *Clashville Orange* society.

Norwood, Richmond, Ontario

FOOTBALL FOLLY

I WAS VERY disappointed in your Gray Cup coverage. A paragraph was nice ("Green with envy," Good News, Dec. 16), but in the Gray Cup is Canada's only truly national sporting event; you would think your magazine would have a photo of the victorious Roughriders celebrating the victory in Toronto on the cover, and also a nod to fans for helping Toronto make this a successful event. *Jeffy Ghies, Saskatoon*

THE HOMEWORK DEBATE

AS A GRADE 6 teacher I am constantly facing an internal battle about whether or not to assign homework ("Homework hysteria," Fine the Editors, Dec. 16). Though I question its importance, I worry that my students

will have insufficient vocabularies when I send them off to middle school after enjoying a year-long homework vacation. As a mom, please, try to assign meaningful, thought-provoking assignments that they can manage. They may beg to differ. *Grant Hamblen, Oakville, Ont.*

I AM ONE of those parents who assigns the amount of homework elementary students receive. And I am also one of those parents who sends her children to tutors. However, I have done so not to supplement my child's education, but to provide them with the basic math and language skills that they are not being taught in the public school. If teachers spent less time showing movies, carving pumpkins, and practising for the next concert, then perhaps they wouldn't need to give homework. *Monette Gifford, St. Catharines, Ont.*

AS PARENTS of three children in Grades 2, 5 and 8, we are opening the one room where house every evening. I am surprised by your spite notes, "For parents who bring their own work home, watching their children do homework must appear tedious and menacing." I feel sorry for my kids and believe them when they say they don't have any fun during the week. I would prefer school lasted another hour each day to have the teachers assist with homework, then we could have free time at night. When I question teachers, I am told that the curriculum moves quickly through required materials, and that a few students take up their time so they can't accommodate everyone. As two busy assemblies and events at school impacting our coverage? I understand dealing homework from work to have to be the "bunny" pushing my kids to go to bed and do homework. It's exhausting. *Karen White, Toronto*

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Justice means having to say you're sorry



ANDREW COYNE

On Dec. 5, Robert Latimer, the Saskatchewan farmer who killed his disabled daughter while spiralling in grief, had his appeal for a life sentence rejected by the National Parole Board. A year later, the board's decision, Latimer's dogged insistence, even after seven years in jail, that he had done nothing wrong by neglecting his 11-year-old daughter. They were the same issues—this, in fact, he had done the right thing. “The board was struck by the lack of insight you have developed in your seven years of incarceration,” NPB was chairman Jeffrey Ainsworth told him at the conclusion of his hearing.

This will make many in court. He has already been punished once for his acts, now it seems as if he is to be punished again for his thoughts. It's enough that you have possession of his body, his supporters say out: must you have possession of his soul as well? The Canadian Civil Liberties Association, among others, has petitioned the federal justice and public safety ministers to appeal the decision, arguing there was little risk of Latimer committing the same crime again. “The board appears to require that he undergo a mental examination,” CCLA general counsel Alan Downey writes, arguing “his role is not to brainwash the prisoners but rather assess whether they would pose a risk to the safety of society.”

But Latimer's was hardly the only case when this principle applied. The following year the sentencing of Gerald Black to 6½ years in jail on charges of fraud and obstruction of justice. Given ages, the prison is a place of correction, on the part of the convicted man was a natural factor in the decision, and once again the convicted man refused to offer evidence of it.

The cases are different in some ways. Latimer refused to face his crime, while denying that he had done anything wrong, or at least that he should be punished for it. Black does

not dispute the validity of the crime or its punishment, only his conviction of it. What the two have in common is each man's apparently sincere belief in his own innocence.

Moreover, although neither man did their duty to society, in a practitioner of dual standards might, each man rejected the opportunity, when presented, to show his remorse by admitting his crime. For the weeks before that neither man really feels any. It is greatly to be regretted that they refused to apologize. And it is greatly to the law's credit that in both cases it held it against them.

The prisoner who confesses to a crime he does not feel not only brings his own sorrow, but shows contempt for the law, since he is in fact lying before it. By refusing the

law, that such penalties are imposed is not itself evidence of an inquiry.

If, then, the courts feel that a law is just, and has been fairly applied, they have a duty to impose the appropriate penalty. What is appropriate will depend, of course, on the facts of the case, on whether it leads to change in behaviour, for which changes in attitude are the usual prerequisite. We punish a man for his crime, a “guilty mind” in the common-law of a crime, but there are times also when a man's heart for doing so is a guilty mind. He regrets upon him, and others, that what he did is in fact wrong.

The problem is particularly acute in Latimer's case. Black's original defence would not pretend that the crime of which he was



Releasing Latimer now in the face of his impenitence would put public safety at risk

of cheap gains, both Latimer and Black do honour to the rule of law, even as they protest at the injustice, as they see it, of their penalties.

But that does nothing to lessen the law's obligation to take into account, when fixing the length of his sentence, the prisoner's state of mind: whether he appreciates the gravity of his offence of which he has been convicted, or indeed that he has committed any. The CCLA may call this brainwashing if it likes. Another word is “conversion.”

It is not that a prisoner is a liar, or that a reporter's court applied it equally. But it is not unjust merely because the prisoner himself believes it. In all prisoners, before themselves actually used, and 99 per cent of them are wrong.

Conversely, if an impenitent has committed it is certainly compounded by the imposition of harsher penalties on the prisoner who refuses to accept of crimes he did not com-

mitted are not crimes. But it is clear that there are a great many people in this country who do not think this what Latimer did was a crime. It is the duty of the law to teach them otherwise. To release Latimer now in the face of his impenitence, would put public safety at risk—not because there is any danger of his reoffending, but to the extent that others might be inspired by his example.

Granted, this sounds a little like medieval witch trials. I have let in the world of the future, the guilty, the false, the false. But there is no getting around it. The prisoner who refuses to show remorse in the face of the crime of which he has been duly convicted should be made to accept the whole of his sentence. The prisoner who shows remorse, he does not feel should have his sentence reduced, for having perjured himself. ■

ON THE WEB For more Andrew Coyne, visit his blog at www.andrewcoyne.ca/latimerargue



HOW DO YOU SATISFY AN ENTIRE FAMILY ON ONE CAN OF SOUP? COOK IT IN THE OVEN.

ORANGE CHICKEN AND RICE BAKE

Prep Time: 10 mins

Serves: 4

Cook Time: 30 mins

- 1/2 cup 1 can
- 1 cup 1/4 cup
- 1/4 cup 1/4 cup
- 1/4 cup 1/4 cup
- 1/4 cup 1/4 cup
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup

1/2 cup 1 can
1 cup 1/4 cup
1/4 cup 1/4 cup
1/4 cup 1/4 cup
1/4 cup 1/4 cup
2 eggs
1 cup



1. Set 1 bag (10 oz.) orange juice concentrate aside
2. Mix soup, cooking juice concentrate, milk, rice, garlic powder, salt and pepper in shallow 2 qt (1 L) baking dish. Spread evenly with vegetables.
3. Top with chicken. Sprinkle chicken with parmesan cheese.

4. Bake at 400°F (200°C) until chicken is cooked through and rice is tender – about 30 minutes. Remove cover, broil chicken with remaining orange juice concentrate and broil until golden – about 3 minutes. Remove chicken and stir before serving.

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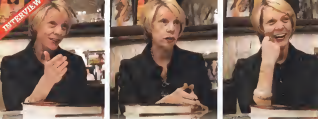
PER SERVING (31 calories, 4g fat, 10g carbs, 1g protein, 0% fat, 0% sodium)



1/2 cup of vegetable
1/4 cup of chicken
1/8 cup of parmesan

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'For women of my generation, we wanted to be liked, we wanted to be nice. Women had a terminal case of gratitude.'

CATHIE BLACK TALKS TO KENNETH WHYTE ABOUT PROFESSIONAL RISK-TAKING, THE PERILS OF ENTITLEMENT, AND THE ART OF PITCHING OPRAH

Cathie Black, the president of *Women Magazine*, is the woman who told Oprah Winfrey on the show that she sold *Opportunity*. She has also worked as the president and publisher of *USA Today*. She recently published a book, *Black Book: The Essential Guide for Getting Ahead at Work (and in Life)* (Crown).

Q Why'd you write the book? **A** About two years ago or so, a couple of guys approached me, a couple of writers approached me, one of my editors said, "Blackie, you've got a lot of wisdom to share, especially for a young generation of women who are coming into the workforce, and why don't you do it?" I kept that in my mind, this would be like a survival guide and a coffee-table book for somebody over the age of 35. Perhaps it's because it got on the *Wall Street Journal* list, but now I'm hearing from men—either email or letters—saying, "Why didn't I have this book 10 years ago?" **Q** It did strike me that it is a lot of the things you're advocating are just... **A** Common sense. **Q** Yeah, good basic conduct and career management, and as a guy, a person I haven't noticed that young women need it more than young men.

Q Do you find that the men with the young women that come to your office? **A** Well, I think the "millennial generation"—which is somebody around age 18, 20, 30—they're different, their set of expectations is very different. I think they really do believe that they were a lady and a and the companies are going to have no change. Now, a lot of the big companies, I'd say, already have begun to do that—I mean, none of that is brand new to them—they're just more and more and more and more and more and more. I think it's more of a challenge for a smaller company, or even here. We've got product lines, schedules that we have to meet and pressure every single day, and the travel that's involved with these jobs, and it's more up the owner than they may change some of their expectations.

Q Do you think their expectations are realistic? Is there a sense of entitlement? **A** Yeah, I think there is a sense of entitlement, and they may have a real realization at some point when someone else—another man or another woman—may be willing to work much harder. I kind of killed myself working in my 20s and up to probably in my mid-30s, and then you begin saying, "This is great and I really do love it, but I also want another part of my life," and the phrase that I use, which is—it's not original—"You can love your job but your job is not going to love you back."

Q You talk about risk-taking, and failure, and

the uncomfortable parts of working life that a lot of people just aren't prepared for. Is there any way to look at that? **A** I think part of it is a learned behavior. For women of my generation—we wanted to be liked, we wanted to be nice. Gloria Steinem has that phrase, which is correct but a personal case of gratitude. We got an apartment in New York in 1979, and her then-husband, business manager said, "Look, I'm not going to guarantee you that Oprah will be there, but I hope that she will be." She came in within five minutes but, you know, she's got this 100,000-word smile and the smiles that just amazing warmth of spirit, and so she made for a great meeting. We had prepared to the absolute toothpaste. I mean, we tried to think through every possible, "All right, how can we appeal to her?" We did this little video—and it wasn't a cry—this with the woman in the street at some shopping mall in New Jersey and Virginia and then asked, "Well, what would you think of a magazine from Oprah?" and they all went like, "Oh, we love Oprah! Yes, that's a great idea!" And we spent, I don't know, an hour, an hour and a half with her. We knew that her house was too big, and so we figured she'd want an internet magazine. She said, "I don't want a paper sample, we had cover this, we had logos. Of course we hoped she'd say she'd use her name, but we didn't want to be too pushy, so we had Spidey and Steve and names like that, but at the end of it she said, you know, "I'd be a magazine it will be with Hertz," so we went very nicely out of the office and then went, "Thank you!"

Q I've known magazines named after a person and magazines look after personal stuff, but I don't recall any other magazine where the person who's named after appears on the cover every month. **A** Well, Martha was an all other first two years' worth of covers, so we kindly and we named Oprah at least to recall Martha as best friend. **Q** It's been eight or nine years. **A** Seven. But, you know, it's a big issue

there's no one to do anything, you figure it out, it's the doing of it. The high five into the empty pool. You've got to get a lot more, faster, or a smaller organization, if you're moving your head and saying, "How can I learn more to do this?" **Q** You mention a lot of people who are well known. The only person that you come close to talking over is Oprah. **A** I'm extremely impressed. I wouldn't say the other people are necessarily inspirational. **Q** This was when you were presenting the idea of a magazine to her? **A** Well, actually, all we were trying to do was to get an appointment. We knew other companies were pitching her but we didn't know if she'd be interested. We had a lot of actual meetings, so we figured we'd be better than everybody else. We got an appointment on Jan. 19, 1999, and her then-husband, business manager said, "Look, I'm not going to guarantee you that Oprah will be there, but I hope that she will be." She came in within five minutes but, you know, she's got this 100,000-word smile and the smiles that just amazing warmth of spirit, and so she made for a great meeting. We had prepared to the absolute toothpaste. I mean, we tried to think through every possible, "All right, how can we appeal to her?" We did this little video—and it wasn't a cry—this with the woman in the street at some shopping mall in New Jersey and Virginia and then asked, "Well, what would you think of a magazine from Oprah?" and they all went like, "Oh, we love Oprah! Yes, that's a great idea!" And we spent, I don't know, an hour, an hour and a half with her. We knew that her house was too big, and so we figured she'd want an internet magazine. She said, "I don't want a paper sample, we had cover this, we had logos. Of course we hoped she'd say she'd use her name, but we didn't want to be too pushy, so we had Spidey and Steve and names like that, but at the end of it she said, you know, "I'd be a magazine it will be with Hertz," so we went very nicely out of the office and then went, "Thank you!"

meantime for her. She'll do a cover shoot, and normally we hope that she comes out all right, but I'm choosing the clothes, and it's the outfit, it's a good day or day and a half out of her schedule, so we do know at some point—we assume she's going to say, "Oh, oh!" But we know it helps sell copies.

Q You talk a lot in the book about success and how to present yourself, but you also mention people you've worked for, like *USA Today* and *Opportunity*. From what I've seen, they don't play by their rules. **A** No, they certainly don't! But most people are never going to meet Rupert Murdoch at *USA Today*, so I thought some of the simple things that people will do or not do are just good rules of conduct. It's not really etiquette, it's just smart things I've learned that I think are going to advance your life a little bit.

Q Are the requirements different for men and women in that regard, or is it a difference simply employment? **A** That's a good question. I've had great bosses. I've had good bosses. I've had some not good bosses, I've had bad bosses. I don't think it's gender specific, really. But I think trying to understand the way that a woman approaches decision-making and being able to be more considered because many of us are raised with that sense of, "It's not about being able to make a decision, but being able to have more people involved in the decision-making that you have more people buying into whatever your strategy or vision is, and it's going to help you accomplish more, more quickly."

Q You talk quite a bit about the core and centering of bosses. **A** If you assume no one ever puts your butt on the back, it's not about kicking up, it's really saying, "How can I be productive in helping this person do a good job?" I don't think it's a man in there every day and saying, "Can I help you with this problem?" It's understanding that they're human, they have their own families, and, if you can, figure it out, because part of your job is to answer the needs of your boss. So often we only think of ourselves and maybe the people who work for us is opposed to thinking one level up.

Q Did a good salesman when you were starting out have the same quality as a good salesman today? **A** I think that's true, but it's a different today in the Internet world that we live in. For me coming up, you always had an in-person call. It might be a telephone call, but your goal was to get an appointment. Today a lot of the transactions are all electronic, so the mechanics of the selling process unfortunately have changed.

Q Does that make it harder? **A** Oh, much harder. Because the way that capitalism sells themselves is as an advertising agency or to what we call the client. The client at Ford or Ford's agency making a decision, you want to be in front of them because they might be comparing your magazine to a three competitors and making a choice between two magazines. It's a lot harder to articulate these reasons in as much as it is to be showing a great presentation, or [to] have an editor there talking about their vision.

Q So if you were going to be an editor, what kind of magazine would you do? **A** It would have been fantastic to be the editor of *O*. **Q** The 360-degree life is your story for full-on work and family. It seems to be beyond the stage where there is one magazine moment like to follow.

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'If you want to have it all, it takes a village—and not everybody wants to have a village in their life'

A You know, it's that Oprah phrase that says, "I've got you, best life, on—I've said this forever—you have to define success for yourself. Very few people can have it all, and I like to say, "And God knows you can't have it all on the same day, but if you do want to be in all have-it-all departments, it takes a village, and not everybody wants to have a village in their life. I work incredibly hard but I also want to enjoy my life, you know? So I think you just have to look at the mirror and say, "I've seen it" and "What is going to make me feel fulfilled and satisfied?"

WAITING FOR A REVOLUTION

Wait times have gotten better in a few areas. Can this be extended to health care as a whole? BY JOHN GEDDES

A few years ago, revolution seemed like a dream in Canadian health care. Patient frustration over insupportable wait for procedures like hip replacement and cancer surgery was boiling over, prompting politicians to pump money into the system. In 2004, Paul Martin's short-lived Liberal government cut a deal with the provinces to funnel \$5.5 billion over 10 years into waiting lists. But when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled, the very next year, that Quebec's waiters were too long to be tolerated, and struck down the province's ban on private insurance for treatment covered by the provincial plan, it looked like the bid by Martin and the premiers to serve medicine from its own doghouse might have come too late. With the election of the Tories the following year, the shift away from pure universal health insurance appeared sure to accelerate.

But the revolution has at least been postponed, maybe forestalled entirely. Instead of cross-deck, ideologically fought upheavals, Canadian health care is undergoing something closer to a burst of evolutionary adaptation. Over the past three years, most provinces have significantly shrank waits. For instance, "The Wait Times Alliance, a doctors' group set up to push for faster care, produces an annual colour-coded report and encourages" programs for faster, yellow for no change, green for faster. "Green just denotes the page," Dr. Lorne Bellan, a Winnipeg ophthalmologist and the alliance's co-ordinator, says of this year's report. "And it's all been done within the public system."

The result: the clearest of medical change has subsided into low-level background activity. For federal and provincial politicians, health news has dropped below issues like the environment and law enforcement among agenda-dominating items. A glimpse at a few snapshots of what's happening in hospitals and specialist offices shows why. Back in



A CATH infection helped with MRI and CT scans, now machines were badly needed

2004, nearly half of cancer patients in Alberta were more than a year for their operation, by the first half of 2007, only about five per cent languished so long. An initiative, Alberta's project has compressed the average wait, from establishment to surgery, for knee and hip replacements to just 30 days from 150 days at clinics in Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer. In Ontario, 96 per cent of heart patients are getting their elective bypass surgery within the recommended time, up from 86 per cent in 2004.

Nobody, though, is declaring final victory quite yet. Although the strides being made are undeniable, progress is uneven and creating precise comparisons among provinces is still impossible. They all use different methods of measuring waits, and most report on only some, not all, of the five priority areas set out for special attention in 2004—cancer, heart, diagnostic imaging, joint replacement, and sight restoration. Whether or not provinces can keep up the momentum is uncertain. A key sign will come at the end of this



month, when, under their 2004 funding agreement with Ottawa, they are all supposed to set multi-year targets for actually achieving mutually accepted benchmarks for delivering care in the so-called Big Five.

Even if progress on the five priorities continues, keepers of the success table brandish. The alliance wants a second set of more specialized benchmarks for four-and-a-half-hour wait times for cancer, orthopedics, neurology, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, gastro-

enterology, and urology. And some epidemiological review questions the emphasis on drawing up lists of treatments to provide. "It's just a list," says Brian Day, president of the Canadian Medical Association, "and there are thousands of areas that need to be done."

Day, a Vancouver orthopedic surgeon, argues for controlling how hospitals are funded, not just picking a few selected procedures for faster delivery. He says the typical Canadian system of block funding, which gives a hospital a certain amount of money to meet how many patients it serves, fails to reward excellence—or punish poor performance. It hospitals get more money by treating more patients, he says, they would have an incentive to improve service. Day

a University of Regina political science professor who speculates on health policy, says key lessons are already spreading from provinces where experiments worked. He points to two big innovations: creating centralized lists of patients, which allow provinces to know them when they can be helped fastest, and obliging doctors to follow standard and transparent guidelines, which lets the system sort out which patients need most treatment fastest.

Both ideas take some getting used to for doctors. McIntosh says they often aren't being told they need to follow a common ground for treating their patients' needs. As for centralized waiting lists, even though the idea is not new—Ontario's Cancer Care Network has been doing it for 17 years—many specialists were still

DAY NOTES THE BALLOON EFFECT: WHEN RESOURCES GO INTO ONE CORNER, OTHERS GET SQUEEZED

not doing it for 17 years—many specialists were still used to maintaining their own private lists and calling in new patients. Along with these sorts of basic steps to manage lists more efficiently, change has come in other ways through simple collaboration. McIntosh points to diagnostic imaging, mostly MRI and CT scans, as one area where investment in new machines had fallen far behind demand. Ottawa's cancer-related hospitals of millions for new scanners starting in 2005. And new equipment was delivered, but many cases had to wait. "There are fewer reports," he says, "of people getting on plans to go and get their MRI."

PHOTO: CARE MAY GET LESS FASTER GIVEN THE IMPROVEMENTS

Man to make a recent Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report that said, "Market-oriented mechanisms reduce costs of hospital services, even when government expenditure is increased." Day is famous—renowned in some circles—for an advocate of privately owned, for-profit clinics, even when their services are paid for under public insurance. His market-driven approach, however, might have gotten more traction with a one-year job to head the CMA. Had it come a few years ago, when wait times looked insupportable. Assessing leadership of the country's major lobbying group for doctors for 2007-08, at a point when the movement had been actually getting doctors, but probably blunted his impact.

Instead of looking for more and length solutions like Day's idea for changing hospital funding, experts tend to be concentrating on management measures. Tom McIntosh,

that has emerged with Canadian ones when it comes to tackling wait times. Day points to what he calls the "balloon effect," when resources are pushed into one corner of the health system, another part of the system must be squeezed. In his own practice, he says, the drive to shorten wait times for hip and knee replacements means a patient who needs, say, shoulder surgery might have to wait longer. Bellan has heard about similar anecdotes about overstretched resources shared to his eye specialty. "Referring doctors have patients with eye problems that are not cancer," he said, "and the response from the [ophthalmologist's] office is, 'We're booked up until December.'"

The drawbacks in the slowest wait times, however, don't seem to be fueling much appetite for more fundamental change. Even in Quebec, the Supreme Court's most decision in what is called the Chouinard case hasn't

altered the sweeping change many predicted. Last year, Premier Jean Charest's government satisfied the court's requirements by promising to provide grant reimbursements and oversee surgery within six months of a doctor determining a patient needs the surgery. If governments funded hospitals can't do the job, the government will pay to have it done at a private clinic. As well, the Charest government moved to let Quebecers pay privately for a limited range of services, but predicted low loads, since the public system was about to get considerably faster.

The widely predicted flood of Charest's expected challenges to have on private health insurance in Quebec or in Canada has been slow to materialize. A similar case heard in Ontario might get to court in late 2008 and another case arises in Alberta over later rulings in those cases might yet negate the debate over whether Canada needs to allow privately insured care to run parallel to the publicly insured system. For now, though, the primacy of universal insurance seems to be holding up. Only a few years ago, critics of the Canadian model commonly pointed overseas, arguing that short wait times in Europe must result from the existence of privately insured care running alongside government public plans. But closer study of European systems hasn't borne that out. A 2004 OECD report found no clear evidence that allowing privately insured options cut wait times in a publicly insured system. And Paul Doherty, author of the new book *Imagined Diagnosis: A Comparative History of Health Care Problems and Solutions in the United States and France*, says France's short wait times largely from integrating private mainly around clinics into the government-funded plan, but not from a privately insured option operating in tandem with the public one.

Doherty, a history professor at Northern Arizona University, points to other factors that make the French system attractive. "That's more doctors," he says, "and they make less than half of what U.S. doctors make." Indeed, France boasts about 3.4 physicians for every 1,000 people, whereas in Canada there were 2.2 and in the U.S. 2.4 for every 1,000 in 2005.

More doctors working for less money isn't an enviable edge. For all the attention he's shed lately on managing wait lists, doctors like Day and Bellan are starting to put more emphasis on managing human resources. As busy hospitals are upping their peak demand years, training or recruiting more GPs and specialists, and finding the money to pay them, could turn into the bigger challenge. The debate over timely delivery of care may have eased, but the old crunch might be yet to come. ■



OUT ON HIS OWN: Chandler, who is conservative, was lashed by the PCs, nicknamed this week by TV for the same reason as his predecessor

Preaching the spirit of the West

Does Craig Chandler's nomination spell trouble for Alberta PCs?

BY NICHOLAS KÖHLER • Earlier this week, Craig Chandler, a poorly but pugnacious Christian conservative on his website he can be seen striking a boxer's pose, not turning the other cheek—battled his way again into Alberta's headlines. In a day-and-a-half news cycle, Chandler's nomination for two seats in the provincial election in Calgary-Egmont. A month prior, Chandler had won the Progressive Conservative nomination for the same seat by a wide margin—only to be ousted by the party two weeks later because, as Premier Ed Stelmach explained it, the nomination was “not in the best interests of the party.”

A one of always the bridesmaid, never the bride. Then, last month, Chandler found himself at the center of a political battle pitting him against Stelmach, who sat on the decision to oust his nomination for two seats in Calgary-Egmont. Chandler has lost this battle, Stelmach, meanwhile, has much to lose.

“The Christophoric mentality of the Ed Stelmach government will stop with me,” promised Chandler, who will launch a lawsuit against the PC party seeking back the money he spent on his nomination race. (The PCs don't have a mechanism to repay nominees.)

HE SAYS HE'LL FILE HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS FOR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HIM AS A PENTECOSTAL

reason could stand prior to an election.) He also said he'd lodge human rights complaints against the PCs, alleging the party discriminates against him as a Pentecostal Christian, and threatened a defamation suit against at least one journalist. “I'm not anti-gay,” he told Maclean's. “I have friends who are gay, we go all the time and we have one rule—I don't talk about my religion, they don't talk about their lifestyle.”

Chandler is, as a question, a matter about him. Born in Edmonton, Ont., he moved to

Calgary a decade ago to start a hair salon with a woman he'd met at church. In Alberta, Chandler, always active in party politics—including a stint with the Reform party—gleefully took to the far-right legacy of the conservative Prairie War. In 2001, during municipal elections in Calgary, his Progressive Group for Independent Business posted signs reminding voters that Dave Brownstein, a mayoral candidate, had once been imprisoned for ordered Liberals—an inoffensive use for some. Soon after, Chandler reported a mysterious phone call to police. “The last you didn't do in the World Trade Center,” he claimed a female voice said. “Be careful the next time you see your car.” Chandler later told reporters police issued the call to a cell phone owned by Arthur Brownstein, Dave's brother. (A fire detector had suggested he'd never made the call and police dropped their investigation.) Dave Brownstein is now mayor.

During Stelmach's run for the Conservative leadership, he ended on his support of gay marriage, telling a reporter “it's a takeover from the militant homosexual movement.” Last summer, an Edmonton newspaper quoted Chandler warning new Albertans, “This is our home, and if you want to live here, you must agree to our rules and our voting patterns, or leave. Conservatives are our culture. Do not destroy what we have created.” (Chandler intends the passage comes from an early draft of an opinion piece he sent a reporter by mistake, it was, however, available online prior to its appearance in that Edmonton newspaper.) His remarks as a social conservative don't stop there. At one fundraiser he invited speakers to raise guns to shoot at Liberal logos. A raft of complaints led him to post, as he'd expect, copies of the federal gun control legislation invited (for the record, Chandler says this had been the plan all the time).

His most embarrassing public appearance was as the subject of *Out Only Kisser*, *Save for Marriage*, a documentary film aired in early 2004 that plays on the familiar reality TV convention of a household swapping. Chandler, who is married with two young children, welcomed a gay housekeeper to his home before spending some time in “On the money” now. Chandler says at one point before breaking down in tears. “I'm persecuted in the most most unlikely revelation, he was of a former business partner. ‘I found my friend,’” said in his group. “The camera and I found out through going through his stuff and other things that he was in love with me. Wow! That was like a heavy hit to take that the guy killed himself and he was gay and he was attracted to me.”

Last year, Chandler agreed to post an apology for an anti-gay poster uploaded to a website connected to his radio show, as per a settlement with the Canadian Human Rights Commission. That month—a day before his fate as the PC nominee for Calgary-Egmont was decided by the party executive—the Alberta Human Rights Commission decided that the letter, written by former pastor Stephen Robinson and published in the *Red Deer Advertiser* under the headline “Homosexual agenda widens,” contravened Alberta's human rights law and may have had a “discriminatory effect on the basis of sexual orientation.”

rial consent” to the beating of a gay man two weeks later. Though Chandler had nothing to do with the letter, Stelmach was a member of Conservative Christians, which Chandler was then CEO. He was PC step down.

Chandler had changed his goals in Calgary-Egmont, a conservative riding of old and working-class neighborhoods, pitting in over 900 votes to his closest rival's 485. By all accounts a talented political intriguer, he spent \$127,000 on the race, an unheard-of sum for a nomination bid. “I know on every single door in the constituency,” he says. The victory was also a triumph of social political finance. Chandler, formerly associated with the right wing Alberta Alliance party, swapped into the Calgary-Egmont PC riding association with a number of the Alliance friends, one of whom soon became

he'd been hired. A note arrived on a stamp of paper and handed to him by a PC party lawyer confirmed the deal. Now Chandler will represent his run as an independent with a slate of other candidates, many of them his Alliance friends. Though he promises to make efforts to avoid upstaging the vote, it's clear he'll retain PC loyals. “The dynasty's done—Ed Stelmach has started the beginning of the end of the PC party,” he says.

Indeed, some see Chandler's nomination as an indication the PCs are flailing in the Calgary-Egmont. Former premier Ralph Klein's great achievement as leader was keeping the party broad enough to accommodate all of its constituent parts. But Stelmach's support is eroding on both sides of the spectrum. His majority seat, which raises the door paid by other gay players, has lost his friends with Cal-

AT ONE FUNDRAISER, HE INVITED GUESTS TO RENT GUNS TO SHOOT AT COPIES OF GUN CONTROL LAWS



PARTY OFFICIALS grilled him for hours over his nomination

association president. Chandler's campaign attracted targeted attacks on Christians, Muslims and Alliance groups identified through the party's old database. It was a deliberate overview of the PC riding's traditional leadership by a group of outsiders. “Stelmach's leadership election in March was immediately targeted at Chandler,” a religiously tolerant spokesman for the premier Stelmach later pressed over a meeting of the PC executive, when party officials grilled Chandler for hours. “I felt like it was the McCarthyism,” Chandler says. A reporter later emerged from a brief to tell him

University of Alberta politics and academic Linda Stelmach.

“If Stelmach wants to stay on the right bank of the party, he's going to have to think about how to do that,” University of Calgary communications expert David Timmins Klein told me. “In the 1997 election to contend with a resurgence of the Social Credit party, which won seven per cent of the popular vote, it's always dangerous if you're

bleeding to the right,” he says. “You could give up five or ten per cent of the vote and be laughing. It's not to lose Stelmach on it.”

Many, including Timmins, downplay the support among Albertans for conservatives of Chandler's ilk. But just as many forget the role of Stelmach's underdog underdog, played as the PC leadership race last year. When Stelmach's men appeared poised to win, many Albertans rushed to vote for a rival. The reason was Stelmach's leadership victory. “The party underdog did it. We can't—didn't expect him to do as well as he did,” says Chandler. “The party underdog made people like me.”



WHO NOT TO ASK FOR A LOAN: TEL. PAY DAY

“It's like to Henry Mark. He's the real deal of if you have cash flow problems. You don't have to go to Kaffeehaus Bohemia and risk for a stack of cash.”—NDP member of Parliament Pat Hinch on former prime minister Brian Mulroney according to \$225,000 from the German lobbyist, at a time when, according to Schreier, Mulroney was “in desperate shape and needed money to buy that I should help him.”

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invaded that and officers of Irred Television, considered its offices, and forced staffers to lie on the floor and while the station was taken off the air. "As soon as we heard about Irred, the dinner stopped," one participant said. "This was taking it to a new level."

The next day, Nov. 8, Sakashvili announced a presidential election for Jan. 5, months earlier than originally scheduled. He also announced a concurrent referendum on the timing of parliamentary elections—spring 2004 as opposition leaders had demanded, or fall 2006 as originally scheduled. For a president barely born to massive reprisals, this was a relatively safe, slight bit of luck. The powers had asked for early parliamentary elections because they could reasonably hope to dig away at Sakashvili's palace of asymmetry and damage his legitimacy over the country's politics. Instead, he put the latest presidential election first. At it, they do not distract him outright, his opponents will have something to show for the month's trouble. And many say it is not fully reaching the deck to ensure he cannot lose.

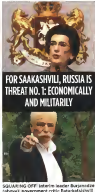
It is important to note here that in jangling out the Russians and Irred for particular suspicion, Sakashvili was not being entirely paranoid. Irred's founder and reigning shah-banker was same Irred/Panashvili who paid the bills for the protesters. This year he brought Super Market's News Corp., the same company that runs Fox News, as a shareholder. Several Georgians and foreign residents told Mailbox that Irred makes not the slightest pretense of objectivity in its constant harangues against the Sakashvili government. Panashvili has often said he would spend down to his last kopek to bring more than half a Caucasian penny to bring down the "Bastard" Sakashvili regime.

As for the Russians, they do play Irred. Vladimir Putin's regime is highly displeased that a former Soviet ally, whose spouse Joseph Stalin and Shevardnadze played key roles in the empire's birth and dismemberment, is today so overtly cozy with Washington, Brussels and Wall Street. "I think Russia is trying to make life difficult for Georgia in every way it can," a member of one foreign press democracy NGO said.

And there are not of ways. Themselves policed by dozens of Georgian guards are barely the beginning. The real powder keg are in two beleaguered Georgian regions, South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Both have substantial non-Georgian populations, including Russians. Both have sought to secede from Georgia, and while Georgia today exercises no effective control over their territory, no foreign power has recognized them. Which means that the most pressing international challenge to change for Georgia is that nobody is quite sure

how to draw it as a trap. Historically, such questions are rarely settled without bloodshed. And the Russians are making somewhat much of the two regions as they can.

Russia has granted passports to everyone in South Ossetia and Abkhazia who asked for one. Voting in both regions was widespread during the Dec. 2 Russian elections, yet nobody in either area will vote in Georgian elections. And on the day after the Russian elections, the speaker of that country's lower house of parliament, Boris Gryzlov, said his constituents would debate annexing South Ossetia and Abkhazia early in the new year. Sakashvili has threatened to annex the regions Georgia For NATO. He has been



SQUARING OFF: Interim leader Burzudze (above), government chief Panashvili

hoping that at the next NATO summit, the military alliance will deliver a formal "red map" for membership to Georgia. (Like so many prominent Georgians, he is now campaigning for one of Sakashvili's opponents.) "When Georgians are asked why they want to join NATO, they say without hesitation that NATO is a defense against Russia," Pech khadze said. "Russia is threat No. 1, both militarily and economically."

FOR MOST OF the 10th century of course, Georgians helped to run Russia and its sprawling Commonwealth empire. There is perhaps no better illustration of the unbreakable and bittersweet in that relationship than the sur-

real museum in honor of Joseph Stalin in the district's birthplace, Gori.

On a recent weekday morning, a Moscow's reporter hired a cab for the 30-minute drive along mountain roads to Gori, where the huge museum and a park in front of it are the centerpiece of the museum's geography. The arrival of an English-speaking visitor caused a brief commotion, the museum has almost no visitors and it took several minutes to find a guide who could speak English. Finally a woman who introduced herself as "Nata" showed up and led a tour through the museum and its two outdoor arenas. Sakashvili's maternal grandfather and the rail car he rode to the 1945 Yalta Conference.

Nothing in the museum exhibit has changed since 1977. Kise said. Sakashvili is portrayed as a family man, a hard worker who showed only promise as a poet, a recipient of gifts from around the world, a concerned father. There is no reference to his opponents who died when the Soviets annexed their countries or in the murderous work camps of the gulag. It is like visiting a Glaxo Parke-Weaver museum that nowhere mentions asbestos.

The temperature inside the museum, lit only by sunlight from outside, was arctic. Kise asked his visitor whether Georgian was his native tongue. "Yes, I have had a second tongue here for 15 years," he said. "I like winter."

The post-Soviet Georgian government has taken a shine to Stalin and its great battles. But they will not pay to fix it.

Sakashvili must have thought that any attempt to build a thriving market economy in Sakashvili's birthplace, under the belief that the Stalin's Russian home, would be able to count on Irred. Western allies will not for which corners he got. The surprise for him was to learn that for Georgia's domestic allies, means cannot always be successful for ends. The day after Sakashvili announced the election, the U.S. State Department's man in the Caucasus, Matthew Bryn, said that wasn't enough. Georgia must also lift the state of emergency and let Irred back on the job. Jeremiah Aderm Mchikeli, a pro-democracy boss in Poland since the 1990s, visited Tbilisi and said Irred didn't go back on the air when a week the election could not be considered true and fair. (It finally did, 10 days later.) When Larin, the former Estonian prime minister who had previously advised Sakashvili on economic reform, wrote with obvious regret that the Georgian government "overreacted and made mistakes."

So even a chastened Nikoloz Burzudze who gathered a visiting reporter in her office in Georgia's parliament building since after Mchikeli's visit. Burzudze is a long-time



CRACKDOWN: The president greeted protesters with methods reminiscent of Soviet times

Sakashvili who is passing from her duties as parliamentary speaker to not a second president while he runs for re-election.

Like others in the current government, Burzudze has learned quickly to self-censor the allegations of Russian plotting and to admit fallibility. "Of course we are not a very strong democracy because we are a young democracy, a democracy in transition, and we have some mistakes," she said. "But we are in the right track."

She was busy telephoning speakers of European parliaments—Swedish, Belgian, Hungarian—telling them to send election observers. Don't think opposition parties that let concern for democracy? "Some of them. But part of them—I don't know whose gate they're playing, but part of these people don't want a rally in Georgia."

Burzudze's office is decorated with photos of herself and various dignitaries from the old-timey—Margaret Thatcher, George W. Bush, Colin Powell. Was she surprised to have to sit through lessons in democracy from the State Department and Adam Michnik? "I was not surprised because, you know, even for some of my very good friends, sometimes it's not easy to understand realities which are going on in our democracy."

As she talked, Burzudze made it clear that for the embattled incumbent regime in Georgia, everything comes down to winning against endless internal enemies and—often more important—Russian saboteurs. She was famous at Gryzlov, the Russian parliamentarian, for planning a new year anniversary of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. "It will be also totally unacceptable to us," she said. "We will establish an act of war." Would Georgia respond in kind? "It is an act of war from the Russian side," she said. "We will try to do our best to react proportionately. But it will put us in a very, very difficult situation."

This is the risk Georgia faces still more

blood in a country that has seen too much. Against that very real fear, there is equally real hope. Georgia could yet be a beacon of progress and democracy for a half dozen neighbors that could use a good example. It could help lead one of the world's rougher neighborhoods towards light. If only so-called leaders don't forget they got into the democracy game in the first place.

Non-partisan observers have upgraded countries examples of the Sakashvili camp using "administrative means"—becoming the special forces only governments can provide—in the heat of an election campaign. Sakashvili has left a brand-new prime minister, Vladimir "Lado" Gurgenidze, to run things. Gurgenidze has given Georgia's government an enormous social insurance after years of fiscal austerity, and in a small state, still training and jobless benefits, none of it placed in budgets only a few months ago. You them for consumer goods are landing on Georgian's doorstep, all bearing the stamp, "A Gift From the President." Burzudze sets no problem with that. "It was a gift from the president."

The bigger picture, she told her visitor, is that Sakashvili simply cannot lose. "I think Georgia is a success story is dangerous for Russia; that democracy is possible in the former Soviet space. If Sakashvili will lose, at least Russia will say to everybody, 'Look! Georgia was trying to fight democratically with Russia but they failed.'"

The argument has more very plausibility. But as an earnest newspaper, it is understandable when Sakashvili's embattled former allies have been saying all along that the regime has defied its own survival as the nation's paramount value. It is not a new argument. After former Soviet Union. In fact, it is a century-old, because it predates the fragile balancing of democracy by many decades. ■

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HE'D BETTER NOT CRY

Santa's facing a sleighful of troubles at the U.S.-Canada border



BY LUCIA CH. KANIGER—Santa, global warming may be opening up some new sea routes in the Far North, but for one traveler from the Arctic design just keep getting tougher. As old Saint Nick tries to make large scale just-in-time deliveries in the middle of the night in a large sled pulled by nine flying reindeer, he now faces a proliferation of post-9/11 security measures and red tape at the U.S.-Canada border.

Canada Post places Santa Claus's residence somewhere in the Canadian postal code of H0H 0H0. But even if Santa has a

claim as Canadian citizenry, he now needs a passport to enter the U.S. by air under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. And that's only the beginning. Like hasn't already done at home, Santa would be wise to consult early with an immigration attorney and a trade lawyer—and start building a large force complete with security-consciousness at the North Pole. Under a post-9/11 program known as the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT), he'll need a certified security plan for his entire toy operation. "You have to have validated measures for a secure supply chain—from the North Pole to getting into the chimney, everything has to be covered by the U.S. government," says Matt Nolan, a trade law specialist at the Washington law firm of Aron Fox.

Like any commercial trade driver, Santa himself will have to go through a background

check, drug tests, and qualify under a security program known as FAST, says David Bradley, the CEO of the Canadian Trucking Alliance. The program is supposed to provide expedited service to low-risk drivers, but Bradley says it often doesn't run out that way because of other complex paperwork requirements. "We've seen such a thickening of the border over the last few years—and it's centralized unabated—that it's made it difficult for even what we'd consider heavy export like Santa to cross."

As well, Santa will need roughly a dozen forms for each kind of toy—everything from toys and CPTAT compliance to release and entry documents. "Last night of making toys all year, the elves are going to have to start early filling out papers for all their products, like Big Ben to show where they came from, and getting their user fee to-

gether," says Scott Greenwood, executive director of the Canadian American Business Council.

If he's asked for only one kind of toy, he'll only have to fill out one of its data packets for his "loadsheet" but that's carrying a variety of pits (shown in "less than truck load"), he'll have to complete many forms as there are toys. "He'll have to fill out all the paperwork for each category of goods, and have same lawyer and agents advise him in the country of origin is baffling," says Greenwood. He'll also need to get a manufacturer's identification number with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration bring in chocolate, notes Angela Shelton, vice president of public affairs for UPS. For clothing, he'll have to make detailed descriptions, including gender, percentage of composition, and where the clothes were made.

He'll have to declare duties, from imported circuits on Xbox game consoles to Chinese-made computer chips, and fill out special forms for firearms, Shelton says. Any missing information, right down to phone numbers, and the shipment can be seized, before postulated for non-compliance. "Hopefully he's not bringing popcorn or goldfish," adds Greenwood. "They would have to be questioned or denied with severity."

Next, Santa will have to provide advance electronic notice of the fact that his sleigh is crossing the border. "He would have to send an electronic manifest—a lot of all the product sets on the sleigh and who they're for—well in advance, they don't have to be signed," advises Bradley. "He should send it in with a Customs and Border Protection and to show it has not been tampered with."

If this sleigh crosses through Alaska and Canada canals, he'll have to go through a final inspection, says Kelly Johnson, vice president of government affairs for the Camp Hill Soap Company in addition to the 31:21 inspection overseas, too late. He'll have to pay inspection times in the U.S. coming at night. This and could also be X-rayed.

And he'd better get to the border crossing with time to spare. "The sleigh could have food time, try to get other accurate products that are at various fair—and one of these could trigger a secondary inspection," says Nolan. "He could easily get caught hours behind schedule." If an inspection occurs up anywhere in China, the time such could be held up while they are treated for health and safety. While Stephen Harper and George W. Bush had talked at their summit last summer about a coordinated North American approach to toy safety, remarks have yet to see such a toy sale or one member of others being addressed by

the Security and Prosperity Partnership, an effort by Canada, the U.S. and Mexico to harmonize regulations and facilitate trade.

The sleigh has been to date and whether "log," says Bradley of the RFP of CTPAT at streamlining border crossings. "It's from writing for everyone, but after all these years it's still very much a situation in which every toy is unique."

As for the reader, while some have been spousal down, something (SBS) related to some restaurants have been listed, the national food and beverage industry. "There is a lot of paperwork," says Monica Haggard, secretary and treasurer of the Alberta Food and Beverage Association. "Some states accept transfer, and some don't, and the ones that do have differing rules." Before Rudolph and his colleagues would be admitted, they would have to spend five



'HE'D BETTER DO MEXICO FIRST SO HE CAN SNEAK ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE'

years to a surveillance program in which the means of discussing countries from South America to be taken to be tested for chronic meningitis, a neurological disease, says an Anonymous, Defense Command, NORAD, at www.norad.ca.org. If he tried to slip in between land border crossings, he'd risk apprehension on under the Secure Border Initiative, by means terms of Mexican and U.S. law enforcement.

Asked to give advice to Santa, Lt. Gen. Stenor, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, suggested he check the department's website. "We have a lot of information about travel to the U.S.," he said. Meanwhile he offered another suggestion: "Try high," he said. "Keep doing it the way he usually does it, and don't come down here with us normally." ■



AFGHANISMS DRAWING THE CRACKERS
Among the night's high gear is a copy on Royal Air Force planes are microphones, blurring caps and Christmas crackers. British forces in Afghanistan will bring Christmas crackers with their tanks across this year. But the troops will have been removed from their duty to confront with R&P news. You'll have to defend R&P news of crackers be relevant of shipping. Says a spokesman: "The troops will just have to go 'Ho Ho Ho' themselves when they pull them."

'Mamita, I am tired, tired of suffering'

BY PATRICIA TREMBLE • For Nelsa Pulido, the happiness in knowing her kidnapped daughter layed between a rifle shot was tempered by the knowledge that captivity has radically changed her. But now she had been seen by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in February 2004 during her presidential campaign along with sister Clara Rojas. Over the years, hostages who escaped from remote jungle camps told Pulido that her daughter was alive and had



KIDNAPPED Colombian politician Ingrid Betancourt tried to escape

even attempted several escapes. Then, on Nov. 24, the army seized a "proof of life" package from three rebel enclaves. Inside was video footage showing several hostages, including a guest, when the tattered chair was on a bench, as well as letters from the captive for 15-page messages dated Dec. 24 and made public last week. Betancourt's mood is somber. "Mamita, I am tired of suffering... I have tried to maintain hope, as one keeps one's head above water. But now I have given up." Alarmed by the plausibility of the release, Pulido, a former Colombian senator, has increased her strenuous battle to free her daughter as well as 750 other hostages. Last week she was in Argentina, hosted by Cristina Fernández de Kirchner for her presidential inauguration. There Pulido pleaded her case to Latin American leaders, who in turn called on the government of Colombian President Álvaro Uribe to approve as efforts to secure the hostages' release.

The FARC, which has evolved from a '60s Marxist group into a racist paramilitary, wants to swap hostages for jailed members. Earlier this month Uribe, whose father died in a failed FARC kidnapping, offered a face-to-face meeting with the rebels in a demilitarized zone. The FARC rejected the offer but promised to release Uribe. As for Betancourt, she'll turn 44 on Dec. 31.

Here she comes, Miss...Walloon?

BY SUSANNE TAYLOR • You'd think that Miss Belgium winner Nilsa Foulkx, who speaks French, English and Dutch, would be considered more than linguistically qualified to represent her country. But when the 20-year-old couldn't understand a question asked in Dutch during the competition, the audience was quick to boo, echoing a sense of foreignness in the country that runs far deeper than a beauty pageant. The divide between Belgium's Dutch-speaking Flemish and French-speaking Walloon populations has caused strife ever since the small European country declared independence from the Netherlands nearly 150 years ago. With separate news papers, TV shows and political parties, the six million Flemings and 4.5 million Walloons are more like neighbors than compatriots. But many now worry that divide is threatening the fabric of the nation—which, despite separating runklings, most had considered an unlikely possibility until now.

After Yves Letenneur's Flemish Christian Democrat won more votes than any other party in the June 10 general election, Belgium's King Albert II charged the party leader with the formidable task of forming a coalition government. Letenneur's coalition to transfer more power to regional governments was opposed by Walloon parties worried about what that would mean for their power despite the federal cash flow. That resulted in a month-long political stalemate that ended last week when the coalition that secured 15,446 Dutch and French-speaking Belgians to march in Brussels in November to protest the lack of a government and support unity.

It wasn't enough to convince the parties to reach an agreement—Letenneur resigned earlier this month. The king has now handed over the reins to outgoing PM Guy Verhofstadt to continue daily operations and bring the decisions on parties together. But with the divorce fading from memory and no government in sight, Verhofstadt may not have long before Belgium's motto—"Through Through Unity"—loses all meaning, no matter in which language it's spoken. ■

The Brotherly Leader's kind of diplomacy

BY PATRICIA TREMBLE • The French mastery of diplomatic success was put to the test last week when Libya's "Brotherly Leader" dropped by for a five-day official visit. Moammar Gadhafi wore his signature eccentric dress and even brought a tent, pitched beside the Eliseo Palace. The visit was part of a deal brokered by President Nicolas Sarkozy last summer that saw the release of five Algerian ransoms, held for eight years on trumped-up charges of intentionally infecting Libyan children with HIV.

The usual glauzes of diplomacy will never materialize. Gadhafi lashed out at France's treatment of North African migrants. "They brought us here like cattle to be debased and dirty work, and then they throw us out on the outskirts of town, and when we claim our rights, the police beat us." He also accused his audience at UNESCO that Libya had a perfect human rights record, and later denied Sarkozy had even raised that subject with him during the visit.

With critics and the media accusing the French leader of coddling a neopaganistic dictator, Sarkozy hastily arranged a meeting with families of those who died on a French plane that crashed over Nigeria in 1989—an attack for which the Gadhafi regime was blamed and for which it paid compensation, as it did for the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. But the public's tolerance of the Libyan leader's presence was especially the heavy traffic in narcotics as Gadhafi returned out in his 20-vehicle motorcade, complete with a band of female bodyguards, whether to admire treasures at the Louvre or show photos to a presidential hunting preserve near Versailles. The oil-rich leader did leave some \$1 billion worth of contracts to buy a nuclear power station, Arab gas, and fighter jets. This week, it was Spain's King Juan Carlos II turn to host Gadhafi, who was also told warned that the monarch is less tolerant of abuses—in November he told Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez to "shut up." ■



GADEAFI pitched a tent outside Eliseo Palace



NO DUTCH street for the newly crowned Miss Belgium



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With interest rates running into the double digits, owners simply couldn't handle rising mortgage payments when their homes had lost so much value.

But this boom is decidedly different from the last one. Bids in Toronto, for instance, only fell by five per cent on average, but compared to the late '90s, this round of sales is more painful. Back then, home prices shot up 75 per cent in the five years leading up to the market peak, according to figures from the Toronto Real Estate Board. This time around, Toronto homes have fallen just 40 per cent over the past half-decade.

A better way to gauge the trend of housing markets from one era to the next is to look at housing affordability. In simple terms, it measures the share of an average family's household income that is required to service the mortgage on an average priced home, and captures changes in earnings strength and interest rates. By that measure, several markets remain relatively affordable compared to most recent days gone by (see chart). In Toronto, mortgages sat up 37 per cent of household income, according to research firm Alan Clayton, down from a peak of 60 per cent in 1999. In Calgary, families pay more to maintain their mortgages than in 1998, at 27.9 per cent, but have yet to reach the heights of the 1981 boom, when it took 31.1 per cent. Even when post-fair property taxes and strata fees are factored in, as RBC Economics did with its affordability study, the Canadian market overall is still more affordable than past periods. In recent years, like Saskatoon and Calgary, houses are less affordable than in 1975, though those heights were never as pronounced as in Toronto, which still looks affordable.

Practical planners suggest a mortgage should never take up more than 32 per cent

of a household's gross income, so clearly many Canadians are pushing their limits. But the soaring price has been low income rates. Five-year fixed mortgage can still be had for around 5.99 per cent. Economists believe rates in Canada will remain quite low through 2008 and into 2009 due to continued uncertainty in the global economy.

But low rates may partly explain why homeowners don't believe the market is about to collapse

because the global housing boom. According to The Economist magazine's house price index, which tracks two dozen countries, Canada has seen relatively modest gains between 1997 and 2007, house prices here rose 78 per cent. That only seems sane, until you consider the astronomical gains in other countries, such as the U.S. (165 per cent), Spain (196 per cent), Britain (213 per cent), and Ireland (240 per cent).

In the past, the longest a homebuyer could take to pay off a mortgage was 25 years. Now, lenders have begun offering loans that can be stretched over four decades.

Canada's first mortgage

a new level of mortgage. In the past, the longest a homebuyer could take to pay off a mortgage was 25 years. In the last year, lenders have begun offering loans that can be stretched over four decades, which lowers monthly payments. For instance, a \$300,000 mortgage amortized over 25 years at six per cent would result in monthly payments of \$1,097. The same mortgage, over 40 years, will leave an extra \$254 in your pocket each month. This comes at a steep price: homeowners forgo almost more in interest payments in the long run. That same \$300,000 mortgage over 35 years would net up \$179,512 in interest charges. Over 40 years, the interest charges would amount to \$485,000.

Economists say 40-year mortgages have breathed new life into Canada's housing market, which had begun to show signs of slowing. Suddenly thousands of people who had been squeezed out of the market are able to afford their new homes. That's good on many levels—home ownership brings a sense of pride and can be passed on to future generations, and it can be used as a financial hedge. Cities, meanwhile, enjoy the new mortgage products that are paid on an already existing loan.

Adding to the action here, the staff in the market is the fact that Canada has

The fact is house prices, even in some of Canada's hottest markets, almost look like a hangover. BNP Paribas Group says a price index for big, single-family houses in 190 cities in North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand on their affordability. Toronto and Calgary, for instance, are tied for 14th, well below New York and London, but also well back of Melbourne, Dublin and Boston, too. In fact, Vancouver and Victoria are the only Canadian cities to rank among the top 25 least affordable, at 13th and 12th respectively. "The evidence would suggest a city like Calgary is still much cheaper than most Western cities, even though it's growing quite rapidly fast," says David Seymour, a policy analyst for the Frontier Centre for Public Policy. The company has personal experience. Seymour recently moved to Saskatoon from New Zealand. He says a \$300,000 home in the Prairie city would easily fetch in excess of \$1 million in Auckland, New Zealand, and many aren't even close. But the difference is that in Canada, the market is still growing. "Canadians really don't know how lucky they are in terms of housing affordability, with the exception of Vancouver," he says.

Over the century, Canadians are convinced

prices here are out of control. An Angus Reid poll conducted earlier this year found two thirds of people felt that houses in their neighbourhoods are overvalued and becoming more so. Why are Canadians so sure house prices have reached untenable heights, when by several measures quality markets in the country remain affordable? A big part of it has to do with optics. A host of shiny new condominiums have been unveiled recently, and the sight of buyers lined up for days to snap up units is enough to convince

homeowners that the market is in a major bubble. Credit Turner's blog, The Liberal MP and author argues that the market is a housing bubble of "Ridiculous proportions" that is about to crash. Of course, Turner has provided plenty of evidence to back up his case, and many others have done the same. The thing about making predictions in a market as cyclical as housing is that eventually you'll be proven right.

But there's no denying that markets in the West are cooling. The Economist, for instance, after 15 years of mortgage price, housing prices exploded over the last two years. For the first half of this year alone, prices jumped 48 per cent. Just to quickly get by the numbers: Last month, the average index of real property prices fell 6.5 per cent from October to \$355,640, according to real estate professionals available about. One city's lower has been slashed to 10 per cent, a stark drop from a year ago. And the market is still in a slump. The market is still in a slump. The market is still in a slump.

Are these signs of a bubble bursting? Falling house prices are always a cause for concern. And of the market decided the good days were over, and rushed to sell, a collapse could be self-fueling.

Many Canadians are trying to decide whether to keep playing along or wait for things to cool off. Eric Gosselin, a personal financial planner, says one of them. He and his wife, both in their 30s, would like to have children, but their suburban-style home isn't suitable. Yet even though their mortgage has jumped in value, finding a place with a yard would mean selling their house for a small profit or a loss. Some are convinced the end is nigh. The

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Percentage of an average family's income required to service the mortgage on an average-priced home



Source: Alan Clayton, Bank of Canada, Statistics Canada, "September"

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ON THE VIEW: Part 1 of a four-part photo essay by David Laundy and his wife, both in their 30s, would like to have children, but their suburban-style home isn't suitable. Yet even though their mortgage has jumped in value, finding a place with a yard would mean selling their house for a small profit or a loss. Some are convinced the end is nigh. The



A 'hip' lifestyle of one's own

There have never been so many single, urban homebuyers—and condo-sellers know just how to reach them **BY LIANNE GEORGE AND STEVE MAICH**

The industrial chic offices of Brad J. Lamb Realty are located downtown along Toronto's busy King Street West corridor where, after a noisy certification process, the city's most exclusive restaurants, interior design shops, and boutique grocers have established elegant footfalls. Brad Lamb is Toronto's self-proclaimed and undisputed condo king, and the first up for HGTV Canada's *Big City Ache*, which follows viewers about the fast-paced high-stakes world of urban residential property developments. Over the past several years his firm has become ground zero for Toronto's booming condominium market, and chances are, if you've ever visited the city, you've seen the man himself. Hard to miss: wearing his shiny, bald, pompadour poised onto the body of a lamb, he has been styled behind his boards, bachelors and multi-capital package deal all over town. Subtly, it seems, is not a requisite tool in the market ing and sale of condos.

At six foot five, Lamb cuts a towering figure. He wears a signature pinstripe suit. He's got sharp facial features and he speaks in a clipped style laced with profanity, like a character out of *Glen or Glen Rose*. Over the span of his six-plus years in real estate, Lamb has cultivated a reputation as a mentor and dealer, and telling so has put him on the unenviable city stage that he sees himself as slapping this way while everyone else is sleeping. Condos are the future, he says. Actually, he's been saying it for 30 years, and if you don't believe him, try arguing with his company's \$3 billion in sales over the past 100 million (in 2007 alone).

"Back in the '80s, condos were not cool," he says, leaning back in his overstuffed chair like a shark under pressure, looking stacks of papers, file folders and, most tellingly, a pencil sharper in the form of a Willy Loman type character living pretense with his pants around his ankles (you can imagine when the pencil goes). "They were shiny boxes in the city. They had empty fish and empty spaces and bad lighting." Indeed, when the condominium was invented in the '60s, it was not as a lifestyle option, but as an economic and legal model for paring up real estate in the city. It was not until

a new generation of visionaries came along—architects, interior designers, developers and realtors like himself, with a real understanding of contemporary style and a demographic—did the market begin to see the true potential of the condo residential model. Condos are not just four walls and a storage locker, believe me. Lamb will tell you, they're an idea.

Though it's tempting to dismiss this kind of talk as the self-promoting blarney of a born

sales type of urban residential explosion across Canada, it's estimated that roughly three million people (and counting) wake up in a condominium every morning.

Condo-mania is about much more than an exceptional number of real estate opportunities for developers in the downtown core. Rather, it's the result of a dramatic retooling of how people live—and don't live—together. The same impulse that drove suburbanization in the '50s and '60s—the need to create a fenced off, affordable and controllable space for you and yours—during the condo boom today, only it's been extended to new demographics: groups, empty nesters looking to downsize, young couples who can't get afford a single family home, and in some cases, families with young children. More than anything, though, this explosion is driven by the fact that North Americans are living places at greater numbers than ever before.

For the first time in history, according to a 2005 U.S. Census Bureau report, the single

or young couple, condominiums have emerged as a smart alternative, particularly for these buyers, who are more inclined to live close to proximity to restaurants and theaters than big yards, good schools and nearby playgrounds. Add to that low interest rates and central down payments, and suddenly a whole new breed of homebuyer is pulled out of the rental market and into the world of mortgages and home equity.

In particular, women have found their way into the condo life. Since 1994, households headed by unmarried women (with or without children) have accounted for nearly a third of the growth in home-owners. Condos provide a particularly safe and secure way all living close to the action. There

ap with very recently. A New York Times analysis of U.S. census data published in January 2007 found that, for the first time, more American women (51 per cent) are living without a spouse than with one.

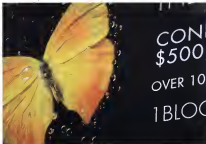
The proliferation of young singles and the housing crisis in urban largely symptomatic of a pandemic state of mind—a kind of hyper-individualism that is making it harder for people to wrap their heads around the commitment of all kinds. The proportion of married couples in North America, for instance, has been on a long, steady decline. Last-life divorce has become a widespread phenomenon; in the U.S., the divorce rate among those over the age of 45 doubled between 1980 and 2004. All across the West

and a family life into concrete and glass. What this urban family life is is remarkably constant: a hazy, rearranging of the "nuclear" model. It's the first time popular in the '60s, with wide open space that promote creativity and deliver a quintessential suburban bourgeois serenity.

More important than the design of the building itself, however, is the marketing campaign used to sell it. Current marketing of development centers show a division of about five per cent toward design and a whopping 15 per cent toward marketing, says Maureen White, a Toronto architect and a lecturer at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Architecture, landscape and design. "That 15 per cent," he says, "is people using it in room debating radically. 'What should we call it? How are we going to sell it? Who's our target audience? Let's do a photo shoot. What should the brochures look like?' Then finally, 'What's the building look like?' Oh, I don't know. Just make a space, 700 sq. ft., kitchen, done." The use of the pre-construction is a starting point in crucial, he says, it because condominiums are ultimately more "broadable" before they actually exist. The buildings themselves—whether they are 10 stories or 20 stories, mostly glass in mostly brick—end up to differ that much less than to the next. Condos, says White, "are the only building type that typically has another temporary building, the sales centre, built in conjunction of its coming."

These sales centres, staffed by attractive, stylish young people the market wants to identify with, are like sales. Look on any glass-walled modernity of the architect's residential, towering, urban, private screening rooms, swimming pools, a gym with yoga room, a karaoke party room, or maybe an on-site spa. Sales centres are designed to promote what White calls "atmospheric amenities," things like luxury, social acceptance, and access to the in crowd, thus they are more powerful emotional tools than any work-out or party room ever could. "We want to make people feel like they are that [the target] person," says Lamb, "when they're living a hip, cool downtown lifestyle by being in that space—even if they're not." It's about creating an environment that sells people the life by buying this piece of property in the city, you are investing not in a couple of rooms, but in a fully realized, designer-saturated, fully centered lifestyle.

This new way of buying is to see the house as a sort of affirmation—and as a reflection of their self-identity—as an increasingly loud urban condo developers to allow a whole new culture of "you-centered" living. In Toronto, over new development called boutique, for



HOME AS FASHION: The market has exploded thanks to a new generation of designers, realtors and developers with a strong understanding of modern style and design options.

multitask. In cities across North America, condo units are multiplying faster than anyone can count. Condominiums make up nearly one-third of all new residential construction in Canada. In September 2007, 60 per cent of new houses sold in the Greater Toronto Area were in high-rise condos. In Vancouver, thanks to ever climbing housing prices, condominiums are projected to make up 60 per cent of all MLS sales in 2007. Can construction is happening so fast that Canadian cities are actually in competition for cities with cities like Las Vegas, San Diego, Seattle, Miami, New York, Atlanta, Houston, and others—all of which are experiencing the very

largest (think of American households) new concern of one person—or no spouse, no children, no roommates or extended family. The number of middle-aged, never married individuals living alone has doubled by over 200 per cent since the mid-'80s, according to a Harvard University study. Single Americans now make up 42 per cent of the workforce and 40 per cent of homebuyers.

Part of the appeal of the condominium, of course, is purely pragmatic. House prices and down payment requirements have become inflated to the point where buying any sort of home in the city is a pipe dream for your average middle class single person



Women, in particular, have embraced condos—they're safe, easy and close to the action

are society's women and youth. There's usually a candidate ready to sign for padlocks. It's low-hanging, no worrying about finding a holey roof or cleaning out the caves. In fact, a whole new demographic is emerging: single North Americans call the Single Professional Women with Condo. According to a study from the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University, almost one in five homebuyers last year was an unmarried woman. That double their rate of buying using single women only 15 years ago.

Among other things, the condo boom reflects a massive shift in economic power: the cumulative effect of years of social evolution. Women are choosing to live alone—largely because, for the first time, they can afford to, and, if the numbers are any indication, they're eager to experience the freedom of a lifestyle that was considered inappropriate for them

in the world. The number of people getting married has been plummeting. Meanwhile, other couples are choosing untraditional living arrangements, like non-traditional cohabitation or LAT (living apart together)—couples who live in separate single person residences, unmarried, but maintain a committed intimate relationship. Life for both men and women has become more fluid. Couples couple up, they move in, they move out, they marry, they divorce and they recommit. The urban condominium market caters to this fluidity.

For many people, condos are a seductive symbol of their hip, young, unencumbered selves. From the architecture to the interior design, the amenities, the designer-saturated choice of layouts and materials, topped up with centers, websites and model sales—any facet of urban condominiums is marketed to start a sort of precise emotional needs to pre-

pare what White calls "atmospheric amenities," things like luxury, social acceptance, and access to the in crowd, thus they are more powerful emotional tools than any work-out or party room ever could. "We want to make people feel like they are that [the target] person," says Lamb, "when they're living a hip, cool downtown lifestyle by being in that space—even if they're not." It's about creating an environment that sells people the life by buying this piece of property in the city, you are investing not in a couple of rooms, but in a fully realized, designer-saturated, fully centered lifestyle.

This new way of buying is to see the house as a sort of affirmation—and as a reflection of their self-identity—as an increasingly loud urban condo developers to allow a whole new culture of "you-centered" living. In Toronto, over new development called boutique, for



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BUSINESS

example, located in a prime spot in the Queen Street West area, is a typical example of the many new developments pushing their property as a "mid-central hotel." The idea is that here, you will not just be an anonymous resident, rather you'll be a VIP guest in your own home. At Bourque, residents will have access to 24-hour pay-per-use "privileged concierge services" it is called. "Whether you're looking for restaurant reservations, theater tickets, a dog-walking service, house-sitting or house-keeping services, laundry dry-cleaning, or grocery delivery, the in-house concierge will make it happen."

Condo developments are also marketed to appeal to different urban tribes. So for instance, in Toronto, if you're an art person, maybe you'll buy into the Bohemian Embassy, a west end building that, according to its website, "is looking for free-thinking, artistic, unorthodox and fun-loving people to take up digs in its chic, unique and oh-so-Bohemian residential suites." (As though any self-respecting avant-garde urbanite would ever head such a call.) Or maybe a buyer sees himself as the type to rub shoulders with celebrities. Toronto's Festival Tower, now under construction, will function as headquarters for the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival. "Once part condo, this giant film festival" it's a world first. Or perhaps the developer is an eco-minded sophisticate? Perhaps she'll consider Boreal, a condo that, according to its press releases, "incorporates 'green' into its design and embodies 'eco-consciousness.' Boreal is described as "sustainable," and the website graphics show a person, presumably a resident, in a yoga meditation pose—and a wind garden, obviously newly raked by an obliging downtown monk.

Asian-gate developers make a big show to prospective buyers of the many ways in which they can customize their purchase. These sorts of personal touches were once and



RICK YOUR LIFE Toronto's Bohemian Embassy offers services to help residents to join the party

often the condo market 20 years ago, when condos were first and foremost functional, low-cost spaces. Today, forward-thinking developers will accrue the biggest names in interior design to select a limited range of standard options for buyers: three or four different hardwood stains, and a few choices in the color of tiles, back-splashes, countertops and cabinetry. For example, buyers can choose to upgrade to a kitchen island, maybe, sleek brushed-steel, or stainless steel appliances, they cost extra, but the more money you spend, the nicer the place, the more "unique" your home will be.

In truth, the choices are very limited, the important thing is creating the illusion that the first selections were yours.

In truth, the sell is an intricate, an intricate in no operative self-defense. Nobody becomes an arty bohemian just by being into a space—and if they did, you'd have to wonder about their definition of the term. And structurally, there is only so much even the most brilliant architects, designers and developers can do with, say, a 709-sq-foot box. They can play with ceiling heights. They can decide to add balconies or terraces onto some units. More often than not, developers say, it's the little details that hook people. Maybe it's the cooler tile that makes the sale. Or a tiny bathroom vanity. A developer might see it and imagine herself there some morning, perhaps wearing a fabulous silk kimono, and performing her morning ablutions. "You have a nice vanity with a nice sink and a very contemporary tap—get them every time," says Lamb. Because the box is not what they're selling anyway. W

Excerpted from The Eggs Book: Why The World Really Does Revolve Around You by Louise George and Steve Marsh. To be published by Key Porter in the fall of 2007.

DRUNK, DISORDERLY, AND ARMED WITH A SIREN

Russell Banks, a fire chief in rural Maine, has been charged with rape and driving a fire police found him driving through the town of Burdette after midnight—driving the fire truck with its emergency lights and siren on. When police stopped him they found the only law was in Banks's bloodshot eyes. A test found his blood had twice the legal limit for alcohol. Residents said that Banks had blazed the siren to respond to a neighborhood dispute.



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The price of milkmaids is outrageous

BY SUZANNE TAYLOR • What will true love cost you this Christmas? According to the classic carol, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, it will ring in at a tidy 200,000, or a 1 percent more than in 2006. Each year, U.S.-based PWC Wealth Management calculates



THE TURTLEDOVE market has achieved price stability

the Christmas Price Index—the cost of buying all 12 gifts in the yuletide classic, from 10 logging birds and seven swarming swans down to three French hens and, of course, the perpetual partridge in a pear tree. This year's price tag is the highest ever. "The index reflects trends in the broader economy," says James Duragis, an assistant manager at PWC Wealth Management. "This year, increased commodity prices, concerns about the value of the dollar, and the first increases seen in 10 years were major factors."

Anyone hoping to impress their true love with a gold ring (or five) should be prepared to shell out, the commodity saw a 21.5 percent increase from 2006 (but is still far less expensive than its all-time high in 1989, when it cost nearly twice as much). The six green e-lays and four calling birds will just add a few more dollars, too, up 20 to 25 percent over 2006—the biggest increase of the bunch. Wagon drivers, performers, including drummers, pipers and logging birds—in this case, 10 ballet dancers at a total of \$4,240 per performance—cost a moderate three to four percent, but million-dollar (who, so a colorful laborer, earn minimum wage) played a 13.6 percent raise. Those with truly fiery passions can be thankful: prices for 1964s, French hens, turtle doves and partridge got held steady (for the record, a partridge in a pear tree will now cost \$64.99).

For those willing to blow the budget, the "true cost of Christmas," meaning the cost of giving unique luxury items as gifts repeated in the song's cumulative verse, is a whopping \$78,700. Pricier than a Nissana Wu, maybe, but certainly more original—and probably easier to find, partridges and all. ■

Better sales are a touching experience

BY BARBARA RIGHTON • Franchises were once rated with the Adamantium, look, but don't touch. Well, times have changed. Researching a new retail phenomenon, Jennifer Argo, a marketing professor at the University of Alberta, and two partners, have proven that not only do today's consumers like to feel the merchandise, they want products that also have been touched by other sensitive shoppers.

Argo et al. coined it "positive consumer contagion." In the study, to be published in the *Journal of Marketing*, the group set up 119 young U of A students by asking them to try on T-shirts. As each student waited outside a change room, a confederate emerged leaving the shirt behind, the implication being that he or she had already tried it on. If that person was a beautiful woman, male students believed the T-shirt was worth more than its price tag. Data for female students, if the guy was handsome. But if the confederate was ordinary looking, nobody thought the thing was worth owning, Argo says. In other words, they didn't want the essence of anyone else's. It's the same impulse that leads grocery shoppers to stare right ahead, dreading if it's shelved beside the herd. "Isn't that creepy?" she asks.



TAKE THE shirt right off her back. You'll enjoy it more.

What this proves: stores that hire sales staff for their good looks "are on the right path," says Argo, "even if what they are doing isn't ethical." Still, the last person she asked if the confederate model spread to, say, car dealerships, was the most beautiful one. "If a customer saw someone beautiful in a car before he sat in it, I wouldn't be surprised," she says. Feel, take note. ■

Minor royalty: big oil shows it's no big deal

BY COLIN CAMPBELL • If you listened to executives in Alberta's oil patch a few months ago, you might have believed the sky was falling. When the government said last October that it would hike oil and gas royalty rates—and collect \$1.4 billion more from the oil industry by 2010—many said they'd have to cut back on oil-pumpjack strikes and leave. The province, they said, was doomed. But for all that bluster, the industry isn't exactly running scared. In the past week, several major companies have announced they will actually boost spending in the oil sands in 2008.

Last week, Petro-Canada said it will increase spending on its Fort Hills oil sands project, as part of \$5.5 billion in overall spending next



PETRO-CANADA'S Breckenridge: What royalties upsurge?

year. The oil sands "will look like pretty solid property," said Petro-Canada CEO Breckenridge last month. Husky Energy said it will increase spending by 28 percent on oil sands and international ventures. EnCana said it would cut spending in Alberta by \$500 million, but also announced that it would double its spending in the oil sands next year to \$1.2 billion. "If you look at the [royalty] announcement in terms of investment, they are still on track, very similar to what they were before," says Amy Taylor, an economist with the Pembina Institute.

Regulators are expected to have a big impact on the conventional oil and gas industry, where spending could drop by as much as \$5 billion in 2008, according to one report. But even here, there are other factors at work, including low natural gas prices and uncertainty over the future of energy taxes.

With oil prices soaring near \$90 a barrel, demand for Alberta oil is flying high. And compared to the huge cost overruns and production delays now commonplace in the oil sands, royalties still seem like a pretty minor irritant bump. ■



WE SEE WHAT MOST DON'T

We see the heartbreaking effects of poverty, homelessness, abuse and addiction every day. And most importantly, we see the people who desperately need support and compassion. For as it's impossible to turn a blind eye to suffering. Last year in Canada, The Salvation Army served 2.5 million meals to the hungry, helped 10,000 people with addictions, and provided one third of all shelter beds each night. The Christmas we ask you to open your eyes and your heart. And give



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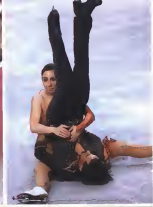
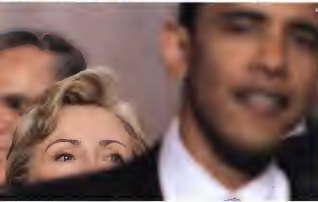
THE YEAR IN PICTURES

**Maclean's presents the
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1 AA Iraq mob's red handprint in shrines' protest the exclusion of former dictator Saddam Hussein
2 Hillary Clinton peers over Senator Barack Obama's shoulder during George W. Bush's annual state of the union address



3 Susan Williams crosses the line while accepting an award from Halle Berry at the 33rd annual People's Choice Awards in L.A.
4 Italian ice-dancing duo Federico Fabbri and Massimo Scotti take a plunge at the European Figure Skating Championships in Warsaw
5 Serena Williams celebrates her Australian Open win over Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova



1 Actress Cate Winslet stands before a plethora of photographers at the Berlin International Film Festival's premiere of *The Good German*

2 Environmental activist and former U.S. vice-president Al Gore at a press conference announcing the US\$25-million Virgin Earth Challenge in London for the first partnership group who discovers a commercially viable way to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. In October, Gore is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

3 Spectators watch as whale sharks swim past the world's largest acrylic viewing window at Japan's Churumi Aquarium

ANDREAS GEDDIS/GETTY IMAGES (2)

AP/WIDEWORLD/PA (2) THEO AGOSTINI/PA (3)



1 A Taiwanese military honor guard at a memorial in Taipei dedicated to their country's founder, Chiang Kai-shek

2 Arsenal's Thierry Henry kicks the ball during a soccer game in London as David Bentley of the Blackburn Rovers watches

3 American software billionaire Charles Simonyi experiences weightlessness in a zero-gravity simulator. The space tourist eventually blasted into orbit on April 7

4 Tourists snap pictures of "snow incidents," continuous trails covered with crystalline snow and ice at Japan's Zao shrine. Zao is a UNESCO World Heritage site

AP/WIDEWORLD/PA (2) AP/WIDEWORLD/PA (3) AP/WIDEWORLD/PA (4)



MARCH



MARCH



- 4 Queen Elizabeth II performs from the rostrum at the official opening of Brompton's Memorial Tennis Centre in London
- 5 A lawyer in Islamabad stands on the car containing Pakistani Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, suspended from his post by President Pervez Musharraf
- 6 British PM Tony Blair and his successor (then-chancellor of the Exchequer) Gordon Brown leaving a news conference at 10 Downing St
- 7 Action démocratique du Québec Leader Mario Dumont on the campaign trail in Québec, Qué
- 8 Nicolas Sarkozy addresses young entrepreneurs in Paris five weeks before he is elected president of France
- 9 Annelle Cathcart and Linquet Johnson huddle on a sofa in the ruins of Cathcart's home in Holly Gals, making a list of items that survived a tornado



MARCH



52 HAMILTON DEC. 21/07

APRIL



1 Police Harry loses girlfriend Cheryl Divy at a World Cup cricket match in Antigua. Their stormy relationship later hit the rocks
2 U.S. President George W. Bush gets his groove on with Senegalese performers at the White House



- 1 Two injured teens cry at a hospital in Kosovo after a suicide truck bomber targeting a police station also wounded children at a nearby school.
- 2 A crocodile holds the arm of a zoo veterinarian between its teeth at a zoo in Kuching, Taiwan. The vet had been treating the reptile when it attacked.
- 3 Liberal leader Stéphane Dion poses with children from the Sikh community during the annual Vaisakhi festival in Vancouver.
- 4 Russian police arrest an opposition activist in Moscow. Thousands of government security forces looked down the heart of the capital to prevent a march by an opposition coalition protesting President Vladimir Putin's anti-terrorism measures.

HEADSHOT: (UP TO) STEVE CHEUNG (2), RICHARD LAM (3)
ALEXANDER NIKOLAIYEVICH (4) IMAGES 1-3



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1 Secret service stands by as George W. Bush greets Right Rev. Douglas Newkirk, chancellor of Saint Vincent College in Leetonia, Penn.
2 Hollywood power couple: Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, amid a swarm of well-dressed paparazzi, on the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival

3 A Palestinian woman and her son, Ruud, 3, in 2002, after he was driven to by Israeli soldiers for carrying three pipe bombs and a mortar shell.
4 Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery, where Mary Pichugh mourns her fiancé, Sgt. James Reget, who was killed by an IED in Iraq



1 Turkish politicians fight over a constitutional change that would allow citizens, not parliament, to elect the president.
2 A two-year-old white Bengal tiger dives for a piece of meat during his daily show at the Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, Calif.

3 As part of his whistle-stop farewell tour, outgoing British Prime Minister Tony Blair stops for a tennis lesson at Windsor High School.
4 An activist scuffles with Israeli soldiers during a protest against a military roadblock at the West Bank town of Be'er Sheva.

JUNE



1 Hamas gunmen speak on phone calls in Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's personal meeting hall after taking over his Gaza headquarters
2 U.S. President George W. Bush, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Russian President Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair share a laugh at the G8 summit in Holzgarten, Germany

YUSUF SALEM/GETTY IMAGES (2) ALASTAIR GRANT/AP (2) KARL LARSEN/PHOTO.COM (2)

JACK NICHOLSON MORGAN FREEMAN

THE BUCKET LIST



STORY BY JEFFREY STUTT, SCREENPLAY BY JEFFREY STUTT AND JEFFREY STUTT, DIRECTED BY ROBERT ZEMMEK
 JACK NICHOLSON MORGAN FREEMAN "THE BUCKET LIST" SEAN PAT
 GALE BRONSON JONAS SCHWARTZMAN
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- 3 English soccer star David Beckham poses after the game with the England national football team at London's Wembley Stadium.
- 4 Under a judge's orders, a sobbing Paris Hilton returns to court after her early release from jail. She was eventually sent back to prison to complete her sentence for violating the terms of her DUI probation.

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START BELIEVING.



2 The U.S. synchronized swim team prepared to enter the water for its technical routine at the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro.

3 U.S. sprinter Danyia "Doc" Patton surbles after taking the silver medal during the men's 100 m at the Pan Am Games in Rio de Janeiro. U.S. & Canadian sprinter shakes hands with an African bowman in a contest with the African National Congress in Vancouver.



1. Prime Minister Stephen Harper gets help putting on an apron at a Calgary Stampede breakfast.
2. A Perito Moreno glacier in Patagonia is melting at a rate of about 1,000 meters at Perito Moreno. Plans to build a road to the glacier have been delayed by the melting.
3. An Embraer E-175 jet partially in the Caribbean Sea is sliding off a reef track runway in Santa Marta, Colombia.

APRIL 10, 2007/23. REUTERS/GETTY IMAGES

Attention McDonald's® Customers

Notice of Certification and Approval of Class Action Settlement

THIS NOTICE MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE

This notice is published by order of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (the "Court").

By an order dated September 25, 2007, the Court certified and approved the settlement (the "Settlement") of a class action against McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited and McDonald's Corporation ("McDonald's") set out in the Settlement Agreement.

The lawsuit claims damages from McDonald's on the basis that certain prizes in contests sponsored by McDonald's were stolen or diverted. This prevented Canadian customers from winning those prizes (the "Claims"). McDonald's denies any wrongdoing for the theft or diversion of prizes but has agreed to settle the case to avoid the risk and expense of further litigation.

WHO IS INCLUDED

This notice applies to all persons who purchased food at a McDonald's restaurant in Canada between January 1, 1995 and December 31, 2001 and who either posted, printed, or attempted to participate in prizes or contests sponsored by McDonald's in Canada (the "Class").

Games include: without limitation:

- Monopoly Game at McDonald's (1995, 1998, 1999 and 2000);
- Deluxe Monopoly Game at McDonald's (1996);
- Disney's Millennium Collection Trivia Challenge at McDonald's (1996); and
- Who Wants to Be a Millionaire Game at McDonald's (2001).

TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT

A copy of the Settlement Agreement and the Order approving the Settlement can be reviewed by contacting the address below or at www.mcdonalds.com/ca/classaction.

In exchange for a broad release of Claims, McDonald's will make available to Canadian customers one prize (the "Settlement Prize") of \$1 million dollars (Canadian currency) in a future contest. The Settlement Prize will be paid in annual payments of \$30,000 for 20 years without interest. If all the conditions of the Settlement are met, the contest will occur no later than December 31, 2009. The Canada-wide Settlement Prize will be in addition to other prizes made available as part of the contest. If for any reason the Settlement Prize is not awarded, McDonald's will award this prize to Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Canada.

McDonald's will also pay:

- Class counsel's legal fees and disbursements of \$300,000; and
- The costs of notification and administration of the Settlement.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

If you are a member of the Class and wish to participate in the Settlement, you do not have to do anything. Your chance of winning the Settlement Prize will depend upon your participation in the contest offering the prize, and the official rules of the contest. Regardless of your participation in the contest, you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement. You will not be able to sue McDonald's, any McDonald's franchisees, any McDonald's employees or any other McDonald's companies (past, present, or future) for any of the Claims. You will have fully and finally released McDonald's from the Claims. The release to be given to McDonald's is broad. It will release claims that you may have under federal, provincial, and local law, as well as United States federal and state law.

If you do not wish to participate in the Settlement, you may exclude yourself from this class proceeding (opt out). If you choose to opt out, your exclusion request must be in writing and postmarked by January 29, 2008. To exclude yourself, simply write that you don't want to be in the Class Settlement, provide your name and address and sign it. Send your exclusion request to the address below, by mail, fax or email. Only persons who validly opt out of the Class will be able to initiate or continue to pursue Claims. If you opt out, you will not be bound by the terms of the Settlement and you will not be eligible to win the Settlement Prize. Do not opt out if you wish to be eligible for any of the benefits of the Settlement.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This notice summarizes the terms of the Settlement and the Order.

For more information about the Settlement or the Order, write, telephone, fax or email:

McDonald's Class Action
4931, 250 University Avenue,
Toronto, ON M5H 3B5
Tel: (416) 646-4300 or 1-888-811-8885
Fax: (416) 646-4300
Email: info@mcDonalds.com/ca/classaction

If there is a conflict between this notice and the Settlement Agreement or the Order, the terms of the Settlement Agreement and the Order will prevail. A copy of the Settlement Agreement can be reviewed at www.mcdonalds.com/ca/classaction or by contacting the address above.

Separate notice will be provided of the confirmation and court approval of a settlement of the claims against Borden Marketing Inc., a corporation that was also alleged to have assumed liability for the diversion of prizes. Information about this settlement, and the order of the Court, can be obtained from the website above, or by contacting the address above.

This notice has been approved by the Superior Court of Justice for Ontario.

Please do not address any questions about this notice, the Settlement or the Order to the Court. Its administrative structure is not designed to answer this type of inquiry. Questions should be addressed in writing, by telephone, fax or email as indicated above.



1. Iranian police officers and others watch as five convicted criminals are publicly beheaded in Mahabad, 1,000 km northwest of Tehran.
2. Defending U.S. Open tennis champion Maria Sharapova pulls a face while cruising to a 51-minute straight-set victory over Australian Casey Dellacqua in New York. The Russian player would lose her next match.
3. The funeral of the 3-year-old son of a soldier in the Vietnam War, who was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.
4. Tokyo train numbers react after losing the final game of the Little League World Series to Wenner Hobbs, 6A. In Williamsport, Penn.
5. Actress Tilda Swinton towers over George Clooney at the 64th Venice Film Festival, where their film *Michael Clayton* was in competition.

1. AP/WIDEWORLD; 2. AP/WIDEWORLD; 3. AP/WIDEWORLD; 4. AP/WIDEWORLD; 5. AP/WIDEWORLD





1 Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama shakes hands at a union conference in Washington

2 Ukrainian politician Yulia Tymoshenko answers questions during a press conference in Kiev

3 Dominican Laporte hugs family members at a police memorial service on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Her husband, Const. Daniel Tesson, was killed during a drug raid in Laval, Que.

4 A U.S. soldier bandoliers an Iraqi man after arresting him during a night patrol in suburban Baghdad

5 Music producer Phil Spector leaves a Los Angeles courtroom after his first murder trial ended in a hung jury. Spector is accused of shooting actress Lana Clarkson in his mansion after she rejected his advances in 2003

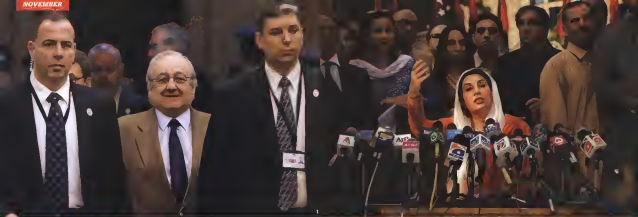
SHALLO HERRINGTON (3), BRITNEY (2), PATRICK DOOLEY (1), CARLOS BATHALUTEY (4), DOMINIC DONAHUE (5) (C)





- 1 U.S. First Lady Laura Bush poses with Israeli breast cancer survivors in Abu Dhabi
- 2 An RCMP officer wipes away tears during the Ottawa funeral for Const. Christopher Wood, who was killed in the line of duty on May 20, 2007
- 3 Anti-war protester Desiree Fairbrook advises blood-coloured hands of Condoleezza Rice before the U.S. secretary of state's testimony at the House foreign affairs committee in Washington
- 4 As part of their police and etiquette training in order to serve as stewards during the 2008 Olympics, Chinese students balance a bottle on their heads in Beijing
- 5 Russian President Vladimir Putin greets Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II while visiting Ruzhice, a site south of Moscow where firing squads executed tens of thousands during Stalin's purges from 1930 to the early 1950s
- 6 British model Naomi Campbell visits Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez at Miraflores Palace in Caracas





1 Flanked by security, Karlheinz Scheiber arrives on Parliament Hill to give testimony before the Commons ethics committee, probing his relationship with former prime minister Brian Mulroney.

2 Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto holds a press conference in Lahore after President Pervez Musharraf released her from house arrest, two weeks after he declared a state of emergency.

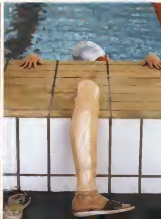
3 A swimmer rests near her prosthetic leg at the side of the pool in a sports training centre for the disabled in Beijing. As China prepares to host next year's Summer Olympic Games, it is pushing for the construction of barrier-free facilities for the disabled.

4 Calista Flockhart parades a dummy on a German TV talk show in Los Angeles.

5 A member of the Afghan police force returns to his base in Kandahar after coming under attack from the Taliban.

6 Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, during a rally in support of his proposed constitutional amendments. The country's electorate handed the populist leader his first defeat at the ballot box when they rejected the changes in December.

KARLHEINZ SCHEIBER (1), CHANGSHENG PHOTO/REUTERS (2), LARRY DOWNING/REUTERS (3), JASON CUNNEIFFERS (4), MARINA PETERLIN (5), REUTERS (6)





Former prime minister Brian Mulroney and his wife, Hilda, leave Parliament Hill after he testified about the Schmeiser affair.
PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE

Levin game, and the Daily Telegraph, and the *After* *Kolides* full of protesters and prize winners, all that Conrad Black has left is his "big mouth"—or, to put it another way, his belief in his innocence. "We have the verdicts now and we can't deny this case," he growled, which is as near as he came to conceding that he is, technically, a felon. "I would say, however, very emphatically, that I have never once uttered one disrespectful word about this Court, your Honor personally, the jurors or the process."

I think, broadly, that's true. Conrad Black has been constructed an almost naive figure in the process. By contrast, his partner

riding over an express elevator made to penny stock status. To the proposition that Conrad did not want those non-compete, the post-Black fans of the company in the last post-*enron* demonstration.

If only the Blacks had been just a little better to people, tried Smith Sachs, my old editor in London. Well, they were certainly very nice to Smith, and it doesn't seem to have earned them much goodwill. Contrary to popular belief, not least from Maclean's readers, I was never one of the champagne-swagger at the weekly parties. I'm a relative type who hardly ever comes down from the hills from one decade to the next. I filed

turned against Black, not the regulators, not the courts, not the FBI agents and postal inspectors and other big players in the post-*enron* chaos. I was there in the 12th-floor courtroom day after day, in a small office. It would have been better for Hollinger's shareholders and newspaper readers around the world had Conrad Black remained in charge. And, if you disagree, then good luck with your *Sun Times* Media stock. Hollinger was Conrad Black, and Conrad Black was Hollinger.

"My life," he said to me a while back, "is now desperately boring"—in the sense that, even if you see off Tim Scanziani's charges on Barban's birthday party, it doesn't exactly afford the same satisfaction as saving William from the *Enron* post-*Enron* as launching a newswire service in Canada. And, what,

The judge seemed to understand all Black has left now is his 'big mouth'

David Reilly's plea agreement reflected only a cool calculation that the odds in the U.S. justice system were demonstrably stacked against anyone foolish enough not to settle. Conrad can't confess to what he believes he didn't do. He wants vindication, preferably by the system but, if that cannot be, then by posterity.

At the beginning of the trial, David Olive of the *Winnipeg Sun* referred to me as one of Black's "strains." Alas, no. My "loyalty" to my old boss brings no financial rewards and cost me my gig at the *Sun Times*. Concerning the trial took me away from more lucrative duties such as book promotion. I don't know why my sticking up for a non-convictible here fit to a former benefactor is any more discreditable than Michael Cowie walking up to his current benefactor for the sake of his newspaper. But, living in court day after day, I found my objection to this trial waning. It's not only the judicial adversary, but the prosecution's role—the inducement is able to dangle in order to turn witnesses that, if offered by the defense, would be regarded as the suborning of perjury, or the confusion of issues avoided to prevent an accused person from being able to present a defense, or the piling on of multiple charges which virtually guarantee that a jury will seek to demonstrate its balanced judgment by convicting on everything. All that speaks very poorly for the federal justice system.

But, beyond that, I simply could not see the crime. When Conrad said, "I could sort of understand the arguments advanced by friends—that, even if it wasn't illegal, he shouldn't have done it. I did, he, personally, deserve the 'non-compete'." But he received at the *Can West* and other roles of Hollinger properties? Well, look at the life of the group without him. No purchaser of the *Chicago Sun-Times* will ever pay a non-compete fee to the super-generous business marketer currently pre-



BLACK leaves court after contracting "My life," he told Stacy, "is now desperately boring"

Conrad Black not because he set out next to Patricia Michael of *Enron* dinner barbanes he knew how to run a newspaper. The last time I've been before the sentencing, he was discussing one of his businesses—whether in Britain, Canada or Australia. I dryer "You have to have a feel for it," he said, and made that copping motion with his hand he likes to do that always looks as if he's either feeling an unseen knot or removing the radio away from the CMC.

Very few people "have a feel for it." Jeremy Browne and the other notorious shareholders don't. Not do Richard Freedles and the other *Sun Times* board members long high off the Hollinger high's corpse. Not do the business pay and his failing businesses at the *Sun Times*. Nor the celebrity directors who

even happens in the future, Conrad Black is unlikely ever again to be running any flagship newspaper, which is what he deserves. But he may not see to the next steps, to the appeal, and, if necessary, to jail. One morning, just before the verdict, when the defendants looked especially worn and haggard, I thought: this guy won't survive prison, if I kill him, and very quick. But as reflection I reckon, if it comes to it, he'll last his 5th year in order to deny his sometimes their memory. Charming Elton John, the *Sun Times* quipped of Black's court statement that "Sony Sound to be The Harder Wood." A reader in Illinois wrote to me to suggest that, after the last five years, a more appropriate name would be "I'm Still Scandaling" life is M.

Photo: David J. Phillip / Getty Images; Photo: David J. Phillip / Getty Images; Photo: David J. Phillip / Getty Images



A HELPFUL GIRLFRIEND ISN'T ENOUGH TO WIN SUIT
London Thomson of Plymouth, England, tried to sue city council for negligence, despite a wall fall and broke the leg of girlfriend Elizabeth Hingston. The \$200,000 suit failed after police entered Thomson's residence as an unrelated issue and found a video on a cellphone of Thomson putting Hingston's leg on a brick, then jumping on the leg. A loud crack is heard. Thomson admitted to mischievous bodily harm. Hingston is no longer his girlfriend.

JOHN F. LALOR

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APPARENTLY YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE BUYING MACLEAN'S.

MACLEAN'S
MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL.

'MY RELIGION TEACHES ME TO HELP MY FEW MAN. EVERYONE IS THE SAME TO ME.'—MUSLIM STUDENT **HASSAN ASKARI**, WHO DEFENDED TWEWS IN NEW YORK WHO WERE BEING BEATEN UP

GERALD UNLICH
LOVE THE BEAR, HATE
THE MERCHANTS

Behind every big cat, there's a star maker who propelled their rise to fame. So was the Berlin Zoo's fabled director **Gerald Unlich** in *Knut*, the world's most famous polar bear. It was Unlich who positioned the orphaned cub as messenger for global messages against climate change. *Knut* Unlich, 59, 5'10" tall, and a headshot of his cub are book all over the place. He's even posed opposite *Kevin Spacey* in the May cover of *Elle* magazine. In fact, 2007 was the most profitable year in the Berlin Zoo's 163-year history. But some say that's the end of *Knut*: he's gone too far. "We have 14,000 animals," says zoo director **Kerstin Bielewicz**. "It's not sustainable." The zoo recently decided not to renew Unlich's contract. "I have nothing to be ashamed of," Unlich says, sipping the spiced "Knut" beer, which he's been drinking since his first birthday and, yes, more baby. So *Knut* will stay where the bear will remain his friend or platoon to the Ditz.



HASSAN ASKARI
THE HAJIRUKAN
HERO

When two young New Yorkers, **Walter Adler** and **Maria Pashen**, both 15, returned to *Merry Christmas* greeting assembly with "Happy Hanukkah!" on a Brooklyn subway train, the group of 30 revelers turned on the Jewish couple. "You Jews, you killed Jesus on Hanukkah. You should suffer for it!" they yelled. The stars were accompanied by a torrent of fans. What happened was nothing short of a Hanukkah miracle. As other passengers put on blinders to the screams, a lone under-20-year-old Bangladeshis Muslim **Hassan Askari**, came to the couple's defense—moving two black ops far his help. Askari's martyrdom allowed Adler to pull the emergency brake, and the small-town hero was applauded at the train stop. The culprits, some of whom have previous charges of assaulting minorities, could face serious jail time. As for Askari, a college student, he shrugged off the Muslim raising Jewish spirit headlines that his courageous action "promoted." "My religion teaches me to help my fellow man," Askari says. "Everyone's the same to me."

LUCY KISAKI
A MAP IN THE FACE
OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

Celebrating *Knut's* upcoming one-day holiday has been a photo op for President **Mwai Kibaki**, trailing in polls for his country's national election. In a crowd of 100,000, he stood at a night-museum where he met his 15-year-old wife **Lucy** publicly. After he introduced her as "Lucy Wanjiku," a youth activist, to **Mary Wambui**, widely believed to be **Mwai Kibaki's** secret second wife. Then the media were outraged when security forces detained members of the anti-Kibaki *Uguzi* party. **Lucy Kibaki's** outburst has refocused attention away from *Kibaki's* achievements of economic growth and free primary education, and toward his rich 76-year-old old politician has failed to include the corruption, graft and misuse of power endemic in Kenya, even though he won the 2002 election by promising to end the war. With 44 per cent of votes in open-polling, they were victims of corruption and other economic crimes, voters may give *Kibaki* a slap in the face next week.

THE MERRITT
LIKE A CHIP OFF
THE OLD CROCKERY

Legend has it that 19th-century American folk hero **Davy Crockett** killed a bear when he was just three years old. The King of the Wild Frontier has modern-day heirs apparent. On Dec. 3, five-year-old **Tré Merritt**—who claims ancestry from the great frontiersman—killed a black bear weighing 300 kg. Armed with a youth rifle, the Arkansas boy was hunting with his grandfather when the bear crossed their path. "When the bear got in there, I jumped at him and he stopped and I said, 'Shoo, Tré,'" recalls **Merritt's** grandfather. It wasn't the boy's first kill—he's been shooting since he was 2½, and killed three deer last year. Tré's family says his grandfather suspects he may even have surpassed Crockett's legendary feat. "Tré is wise and really killed a bear," he boasts. "Lucy doubt if Davy killed one when he was three."



TRÉ MERRITT, 5, KILLED A 300-KG BLACK BEAR. HE CLAIMS ANCESTRY FROM THE GREAT FRONTIERSMAN DAVY CROCKETT. (PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES)

GEORGINA CHAPMAN
WEDDING BY DESIGN

It's a wrap for *Real Housewives of New York City* **Georgina Chapman** and movie mogul **Harvey Weinstein**. After a two-year courtship, the pair tied the knot in a \$10-million wedding in the Hamptons. The bride, 31, is a former model who produced such hits as *Shogun* in *Love, Kill and Pulp Fiction*, married the former model who produced *Crash* and *The Italian Job*. The groom, 44, is a former model who produced *Crash* and *The Italian Job*. The groom, 44, is a former model who produced *Crash* and *The Italian Job*.



OSCAR NIEMEYER
THE MASTER OF THE
CURVE TURN 90

While working on one of his most famous works, the Spanish city of *Arles*, Brazilian architect **Oscar Niemeyer** passed last weekend for a heart's condition after a long illness. Niemeyer, 98, was a pioneer of modern architecture, known for his bold, sweeping lines. He designed the *Christ the Redeemer* statue in Rio de Janeiro and the *Pantão de Areia* in Brasília. He was a member of the *Grupo dos Cinco*, a group of five architects who founded the *Modernist Movement* in Brazil. He was a pioneer of modern architecture, known for his bold, sweeping lines. He designed the *Christ the Redeemer* statue in Rio de Janeiro and the *Pantão de Areia* in Brasília.

MARINA NEMAT
A BRAVE WOMAN'S
STRENGTH OF SPIRIT

Her mother's death at age 16, when she complained to her teacher about a revolutionary *Shah* because much class was being held in the streets. What followed would be broken heart people. **Marina Nemat's** mother died in a car accident on her way to work. She was a member of the *Shah's* secret police, the *Revolutionary Guards*. She was a member of the *Shah's* secret police, the *Revolutionary Guards*. She was a member of the *Shah's* secret police, the *Revolutionary Guards*.

EDUARDO CONTINI
UNCOVERING A MONSTER
AND HIS UNDERNEATH

Italian author **Eduardo Contini** wrote the novel *The Monster* about a man who kills his wife. The novel is a psychological study of a man who kills his wife. The novel is a psychological study of a man who kills his wife. The novel is a psychological study of a man who kills his wife. The novel is a psychological study of a man who kills his wife.



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film

Does a movie musical need sword songs? No. *After all, My heart belonged like his* (narrator and Audrey Hepburn) But is another way does a movie musical need sword songs? If it contains almost nothing but sword songs! Director Tim Burton's film remake of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, opening Dec. 21, will treat that theory. The score by

composer (and Stephen Sondheim) has so much difficult music that it's often compared to an opera, but Burton has cast the picture with non-singers, starting as the top with his wife, Blaise Bonham Carter, who sings her numbers in a small, breathy voice, and Johnny Depp, who has compared his singing to "the wailing of a dying dog." If recent musicals like *Hairspray* and *Evansville* have renewed the appetite for movies with people who can sing and dance, *Sweeney Todd* is a different type of musical—one aimed at people who aren't necessarily into musicals.

The people involved with the film all agree that it's not supposed to feel like a musical. Burton has said that he doesn't care for musicals but has always been fascinated by *Sweeney Todd*, which was singing (but almost no dancing) to tell the old English horror story of a barber who cuts his customers' throats and makes them into meat pies. Mike Higham, who produced the music, explains Burton's controversial decision to eliminate all chorus parts (which relegates the play's theme song, *The Ballad of Sweeney Todd*, to orchestral background music) by saying that Burton "didn't want it to feel like a Broadway show." He adds that Burton's approach "helps stop people from bursting into song, which is a big cause, and puzzle of people all." Justin Campbell Fowler, who plays the meek, middle-aged figure of the young romantic lead (and turns in one of the best pieces of singing in the low-budgeted musical), says that the lack of trained singers creates an advantage

Killing them softly

A lot of people will be going to 'Sweeney Todd' just to hear Johnny Depp sing
BY JAIME J. WEINMAN



over a normal musical. "Every character is different in the way they sing, whereas on Broadway, it could end up being sung all the same way." *Sweeney Todd* is not even being advertised as a musical; the overall theatrical trail emphasizes the singing and sells the piece as a Victorian and slasher tale.

Sweeney Todd has always been a horror for people who don't like traditional musicals, even before Burton got his hands on it.

The stage show, which premiered in 1979 and has been revived frequently over time (including a current production in which singers play instruments onstage), was one of a series of 19-year theatricals from Sondheim and director Harold Prince, who sought to tackle subject matter and techniques that hadn't been thought appropriate for musical theatre. Following a kabuki-style musical *Pacific Overtures*, *Sweeney Todd* was a "musical thriller," a bloody horror story in song. With its acerbic score and Prince's symbolic (Industrial Revolution production theme, it managed to present itself as an early work of theatre, even though it incorporated the clichés of melodrama. Ken Camrou, the Canadian actor who played the title role in the original production, says the key to its success was that, in spite of the elements of tongue-in-cheek comedy, he and co-star Angela Lansbury

(not a trained singer but an experienced musical-theatre performer) treated it "like it's Jacobean tragedy. It may have all the trappings of melodrama, but it's not."

Though Prince split up with Sondheim soon after *Sweeney Todd* and had more commercial work—including *The Phantom of the Opera*, a user-friendly variation on *Sweeney Todd*'s brand of dark semi-apocalyptic musical theatre—Sondheim has kept writing long songs that are built more on musical tropes than flowing melody, and that are so clearly tied to stage action that they can't be turned into pop hits. In the process he's spawned a loyal cult following among pas-



STYLING: GUY AROCH; HAIR: JEFFREY M. BROWN; MAKEUP: JEFFREY M. BROWN

gle who set him as an ass-kick hero. Frank Rich, the New York Times columnist, came to prominence as a film under-underground when he praised Sandholm for injecting the cow-tens of Broadway and "kicking the movie into new levels of raucous to a sophisticated wit." A chunk of the audience for any Broadway show consists of people who aren't big fans of other musicals.

This means the reasons for buying *Sweeney Todd* to discuss are as different (from the reasons for adapting a glitter show like *Hairspray*) as the reasons for watching it. *Sweeney* is a showcase for just actors, be it Fred Armisen and Greg Kinnear or the cast of *Hairspray* (which went far stars who view this singer-dancer, like Christopher Walken in *"High School Musical"* (E!)). But *Sweeney Todd* is a showcase for Tim Burton and his interest in outcasts.

From society (Depp's Sweeney is a murder version of Edward Scissorhands) or Ed Wood, Burton and screenwriter/prod. exec. John Logan have kept the story and song list very faithful to the stage play, and they clearly regard *Sweeney* as a show in three: wherever shows often dance without an audience, Burton has kept the original indications by Jonathan Demme (expanded for multi-stage audiences). The finished product reflects Burton's (and Logan's) way, from the typical product designer to the superbly special effects—making a collage of films' gothic musicals.

With a performer based around the producers would look around for actors who would be willing to sing. But Burton and Depp and Carter because he always came there. And for a Burton project, they're aggressive. Their singing of the distinctly musical contribution, comically sang. A Little Priest ("Where some shepherd's sheep peeped/and some sheep shepherds' peeped/and some sheep shepherds' peeped/and some sheep shepherds' peeped") is a primer and quater than Linsbury and Caruso's, because Burton has rejected the show-business approach with his own brand of gruesome fairy tale. Most like musicals succeed or fail based on the performances of the individual numbers, *Sweeney Todd* is more like a non-musical in that it's more important for each number to be for the director's approach.

This also explains why none of the scores are dubbed. Dubbing used to be common practice in the most successful movie musicals. It has been involved with *West Side Story* (he wrote the lyrics), dubbed most of the cast, and the last time Depp appeared in a musical, *Cry Baby*, director John Waters had him dubbed. But apart from the fact that today's gossip machine would tear apart any star who had someone else sing for him, *Sweeney Todd* wouldn't work with it. (No singing—not just

coverage, much more than musicals usually get in the months before they open.) At first the reports focused mostly on the controversy over whether Depp could sing ("Does *Sweeney Todd* Can't Sing?" in *Sweeney Todd*), read a London Times headline, coverage of the studio is encouraging signs that he was better than expected. Even *Los Angeles* approves of Depp's performance of the number *Carousell* introduced on Broadway. "For the film it's fine. You couldn't ask him to do it on stage, but he can sing the tunes."

All these stories have given the movie an unexpected source of appeal: people will be going to hear whether Depp can handle the music. Hughes, who thinks that the audience for the film will largely be "fan-based" fans of Burton, Sandholm, and of course Depp, adds that it may be true. It's an element of curiosity people will want to know what Johnny sounds like when he sings. "One might wonder if this non-musical approach might defeat the purpose of doing a musical. The stage production may have been an emotional, but it did include some show-stopping numbers and plenty of comic relief. The movie is so obsessed with not feeling like a musical that it occasionally feels dead, when Depp comes out in the midst of a scene's dramatic color scheme, even people who aren't musical fans might get a little nostalgic for the brighter colors and more intense staging of a traditional musical, or even the stage version of *Sweeney Todd*."

But the most important question about a movie musical is not who doesn't pay enough attention to musical values, but whether it works. It remains to be seen whether Depp's approach to *Sweeney Todd* will succeed at the box office, but it's already working for its screening audiences: advance reaction was good enough that the studio decided to move up the release date to the busy Christmas season. And though Depp's songs carry the story, the filmmakers are hoping for a lot of people have said this so far: when they watch this film for the first time, it didn't feel like watching a musical. Which I think is probably the biggest compliment. ■



AUDREY HEPBURN wasn't head for her singing in *My Fair Lady*; Sweeney Todd is more work

Dubbing used to be common practice in films, but today's gossip machine would tear apart any star who had someone else sing for him

because [none of it is singing, but because] it didn't make the songs feel more like song composition than show tunes. Highest stars that it was in recording their songs that the actors arrived at their characterizations. "It varied with six weeks in the recording studio; they were discussing the character." Flower says that singing the songs helped him play the part like a show business actor. "You've got to be the characters that you've already been when you sing the songs."

Oddly enough, the movie may be getting better publicity than it would have had with real singers. The announcement that Depp would sing his own songs led to a rash of media



THE YEAR IN CELLULOSE: *Wuthering*, the war on terror, and the many faces of Rob Dylan dominate our 2007 roundup of best films

Knocked up and blown clean away

The Top 10 movies of 2007 are heavy on sex, terror, and breakout Canadian performances

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON • War is like a box of chocolates. That could be the tag line for *Charlie Wilson's War*, and not just because it stars Mr. Famous Gump, Tom Hanks. This nutty Clinton connection about America's covert war in Afghanistan debuts the "You arrive like a dream come true, a year of hell, better movies about Iraq, Afghanistan and the war on terror. For Tom Hanks career in a hot tub with naked boobies" (as a pregnant Julia Roberts) was a bit of a far cry from his role in *Cast Away*. But the film is a war movie with a twist: it's a comedy. It's a war movie with a twist: it's a comedy. It's a war movie with a twist: it's a comedy.

In an early scene, a political movie directed by Michael Ondaatje, *The Englishman's Boy* (written by Aaron Sorkin) is a war movie with a twist: it's a comedy. It's a war movie with a twist: it's a comedy. It's a war movie with a twist: it's a comedy. It's a war movie with a twist: it's a comedy. It's a war movie with a twist: it's a comedy.

1. *Knocked Up* • 2. *Wuthering* • 3. *Depp's* • 4. *Wuthering* • 5. *Wuthering* • 6. *Wuthering* • 7. *Wuthering* • 8. *Wuthering* • 9. *Wuthering* • 10. *Wuthering*

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on *Sweeney Todd* and mixing it with patches of *Wuthering* and *Wuthering*, a gothic western about capitalist exploitation.

Perhaps blood is a harbinger of passion, because this was an exceptionally hot year for movies. *Knocked Up* is a top 10 hit, a tough one that could happily replace half the films on my list with five films that didn't make the cut—including *Lost* and the best *God* (Michael Douglas, *The Grudge*, *Days of Wrath*, *Antichrist*, *Zodiac* and *Uncle Ben*).

1. *No Country for Old Men* • 2. *Wuthering* • 3. *Depp's* • 4. *Wuthering* • 5. *Wuthering* • 6. *Wuthering* • 7. *Wuthering* • 8. *Wuthering* • 9. *Wuthering* • 10. *Wuthering*

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4. *Wuthering* • 5. *Wuthering* • 6. *Wuthering* • 7. *Wuthering* • 8. *Wuthering* • 9. *Wuthering* • 10. *Wuthering*

you'll find a good movie, he redeems it with a great American road movie.

5. *Eastern Promises* • 6. *Wuthering* • 7. *Wuthering* • 8. *Wuthering* • 9. *Wuthering* • 10. *Wuthering*

6. *Wuthering* • 7. *Wuthering* • 8. *Wuthering* • 9. *Wuthering* • 10. *Wuthering*

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9. *Wuthering* • 10. *Wuthering*

10. *Wuthering*

11. *Wuthering*



WE'RE STALKING • LIZA MINNELLI

Christmas for some of us is a giving and taking. For the daughter of Judy Garland, it's a time for love and giving. A photographer, Minnelli, 61, released on stage last week in *Salvatore*, Sweden, right in the middle of "A Classic Christmas Night" concert, because she was afraid by bad reviews and by the fact that her 10-year-old son, Matteo, was crying down in just after allegedly practicing out a pop song.



DON'T LIKE your friend's new fiancé? Find a way to give your blessing, otherwise "they may suspect you won't be believed for years!"

What not to say at tricky moments

Your friend is dating someone you hate, or wants to borrow money—here's some advice

BY JULIA MICHELL • Everyone has moments when they don't know what to say when a colleague asks for money, or a friend falls in love with the wrong person. You want to say the right thing but you can't think what. Now we have some wisdom on a range of conversational snafus. What Not to Say Finding the Right Words at Difficult Moments is for "times when you are silenced—overwhelmed with embarrassment, gobsmacked, dumbstruck—because someone confronts you with a situation, and you have to decide how to respond." The author, Mark Wernke, is a former priest who teaches philosophy at London's Birkbeck College. Also of his advice is drawn from history's greatest thinkers: Plato, Seneca, Shakespeare, Freud.

When a friend falls for the wrong person, he writes, "You try to be jolly, but dark thoughts surface. 'Does he need money, a passport, a flat?' Is her biological clock ticking?" One thing to do, he writes, "is the relationship cannot resolve your thinking. But you know it must. The friendship requires it." He cites the example of a friend of his who fell for a "very endomorphic" woman. "It was obvious to all that she was not, let alone being in his orbit as an average to a first woman." You cannot reason with people in these kinds of situations, he says. "They think they know more about love than you possibly can. They may suggest you are jealous and want the best for yourself."

"There are no things you can say, though. 'First, reply that you look forward to getting to know the new boyfriend or girlfriend, to becoming their friend, too.' This is partly a delaying tactic aimed at befriending someone in trouble and endearing you to them if the inevitable need to pass judgment." He quotes Aes-

chus: "The dawn for friendship comes quickly, but a dating does not." Second, he suggests encouraging your friend to get to know the beloved better. "Thousands of times 'Take heart,' he writes. 'Your friend may come to see the faults you so quickly spotted.'"

On the flip side, what can you say to a friend who is depressed if the friend is secretly sad, Wernke suggests. "You can be jolly and say of your pain will cheer them up." If the person is depressed, you can comfort them, and "your concern will ease their despair." If the person is truly depressed, however, "encouragement will only deepen their sense of melancholia." Instead, Wernke writes, "put melancholia to sleep in a voice so self-disgusted. It is fruitless to contradict them in their self-loathing. Indeed, it might be best to confirm them in that sensibility, since at least it establishes a connection across their otherwise total withdrawal from the world."

Disagreements in income can also be avoided, Wernke cites the story of Diogenes, who lived in a barrel, and was one day visited by Alexander the Great, the wealthiest, most powerful man in the world. "Alexander stood at the entrance to Diogenes' barrel and said, 'What can I give you?' Diogenes said, 'You can get out of the way of the sun. You're casting a shadow over the face of my barrel.'"

Wernke explains, "Alexander didn't have

a thing to give Diogenes. They could meet on level terms. Alexander went away saying, 'If I weren't Alexander the Great, I'd want to be Diogenes.' " With the rich and powerful, Wernke says, "you've got to outlive it in a way that doesn't care about money at all."

With regular folks, his advice against ever asking, "What do you do?" People presume a person's job says something about them. "The trouble is, it may or may not. Work may be purely a means of making a living, and you may not have learned as much about them as an individual." Worse, if the person is unemployed, the question generates much embarrassment neither party knows what to say. "They might feel if they aren't reasonably active, they're not doing anything productive at all. Sometimes it's like they're saying, 'I'm not fully human.'"

Where lending money is concerned, Wernke turns to Shakespeare. "Neither a borrower nor a lender be." It is embarrassing to ask for money, he says, and embarrassing to be asked for it. "I think there is only one response," he writes. If asked to lend cash, give it as a gift. "The key with that situation is, if you can give a gift, the same problem will be one of generosity and kindness. Avoid the issue that they're going to the bank. If the money cannot be a gift, call out wanting to help the person in other ways, he suggests. "If you cannot be generous, or you suspect the person you ask cannot be so, then neither give nor receive." ■



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Perhaps he won't out his welcome in the 1950s with frequently embarrassing appearances in films such as *Ice Cream 56*. Whatever. But it's been a long time between Seiden Glaser nominations for the important 90-year-old. Look over his remarkable road for the TV special *A Greeting for Christmas*, the first one since 1956 when he was nominated for Marty. Best Borgnine: "My dad called me up from Hawaii and said, 'Dad? What the hell did you do?'"

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVEN CLARKE



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taste of blood in my throat / The pain won't let me stay the
And now I know we'll never be the same / I don't want to live, not
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let me get away.* Under the Searcher by Savanah Day

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MACLEAN'S

MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL



Words to add to the dictionary, the 2007 edition



SCOTT
FESKENKO

backlash = a failed remedy



colours = the fear that a long-standing bête noire of one's country, who for years has been safely ensconced outside one's national borders, may now be tempted to return



chronic = to be revealed not only as a chronic cheater, but as a chronic cheater who cheated by having another man stick needles in his brain



control = the phenomenon by which one's public use of Facebook results in a publicist hyping both decreases in response to the increase in odds of spending the rest of one's life as a 9-cell with a 120-lb man named Terry



doom = the readiest belief that you are immune in the face of widespread evidence that you are, in fact, not immune



fulfilment = to undergo a medicalized regimen in public view, not because of any

admirable qualities of your own, but solely due to comparison with the malnourished stompers of the creep you loathed up



gore = to receive a postscript card that pretty much guarantees your future insurmountable. In a ceremony last night in Hollywood, Clay gave the Oscar for Best Actress.

grossing = to sell millions of records to which no one ever admits listening, a to sing only when accompanied by at least 4,000 records, a strange affliction that condemns a musical artist to pose with the most serene blank facial expression on every single one of his record covers

harper = to spin one's wheels, to fail to get ahead despite countless opportunities to do so against laughably feeble competition, is the predictable and inevitable result for someone to die while falling in the go-ahead throng. After yet another last night, Nicole Kidman continued on a harper against her agent and publisher

killary = a full year's supply of vague = to overlook a politician's conduct because the candidate's spouse is so often charming even though he's usually lying on your wife's right now

lulise = to enter one's such measure of force, usually while snored

luckabee = to be taken unusually, unexpectedly. I dropped a note to the suggestion box and now I've been luckabee to give a presentation to the board of directors

joke = to adopt, copiously

jong = if the sudden and an explicable waning of a once voracious throat. That forest for 50 cm of snow has been jong led to westered flurries.

karibetia = 1. a convulsed, hard to follow. These directions to the Ashbury race track, 3. from the ancient Gormaz civilization, increasingly as "I know, I know—I can't believe we're treating this guy as a"



lyon = a mythical creature rumored to exist but only rarely seen, 2. a patch of facial hair that legally remains the property of 1987



These lamb-chop admirers look great with your laptop

naufway = a mysterious place where starchy goes to die, 1. to "spalaglic" with out something a bit contrite, 2. Old Irish type for a dubious explanation. Arriving home drunk and covered with lipstick, the man never showed his wife that he'd been working late at the office, yes, forgoing, home, home

obama = the name that a remarkable cancer triumph and the fulfillment of one's dream as within one's grasp, coupled with a nagging feeling that Obama never going to let you hear the end of how it was his support that turned the tide and after the inauguration he'll start calling on you on the balcony and the Middle East and as first you'll take her calls but later you start realizing her need one night you crawl into bed and find, right there under the covers, you are horrified to find a secret warning in the form of the bloodied head of Dr. Phil

patia = amuse charlatannes

rauler = a lecherous friend who, despite his own fail, will use sufficient resources and influence to ensure you spend your brief prison sentence in the company of a series of nice, affectionate men, not that he would do that, no one

thangpous = one who seems to believe he is entitled to an important job as an account of great height and a center in a character and, yes, very, unattracted. Charlie Sheen

unspiced a thompson attitude to anything less than a firearm

vick = a year that makes the Queen's coronation look like a public of satisfying sex and multiple literary passages

For General Black, 2007 was quite the risk

ON THE WEB: For Scott Fescenko's take on the news of the day, visit his blog www.macleans.ca/fescenko

HUSSEIN 'L.J.' JILAOW

1980-2007

He was 'nobody's child,' escaping war-torn Somalia only to be sent back after a life of crime in Canada

Hussein Jilaow was born in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, on Nov. 23, 1980. The equally portly city was once the centre of east African trade, but in 1990, rebel militias took power there in a violent uprising, forcing out long-time dictator Mohamed Siad Barre, and plunging the country into a gruesome civil war. In the summer of 1992, when he was 11, Hussein witnessed his father killed by sniper fire in the war-ravaged city, and fled Somalia for the U.S. as a refugee member of the Marehan clan, a small tribe allied with the banned regime. He arrived in the Kigali, Rwanda border crossing in September 1994 and was granted refugee status in Canada. He did not know the whereabouts of his mother or his five siblings. In Canada, he followed members of his clan to Winnipeg, home to a growing east African community.

"He was nobody's child," says Ali Saad, who owns the west-end Yasser Ethiopian Restaurant. One night in 1995, Winnipeg's Child and Family Services phoned Ali, who'd found the 15-year-old Hussein at the restaurant. They'd found Hussein down town, and suspected he might be Ethiopian. "I tried speaking Ethiopian, but he didn't answer," says Ali, who drove to the downtown offices to try to help. "So I tried Arabic. He said, 'No, Somali, Somali.'" At this, Ali brought in his wife, Ayse, who was raised in the Somali-Berber region of eastern Ethiopia, and spoke the language fluently. Hussein smiled, and relaxed when he heard his native tongue. That night, the Saads brought him to their North End home, where, for three years, he lived "like an older brother" to their three children.

Hussein enrolled in junior high at nearby John Pritchard School, but floundered; he had a Grade 3 level education, and spoke no English. A former teacher remembers a "nice" but "obviously troubled" boy. He had constant raptures: that sometimes woke him, screaming, "In the middle of the night, he would jump up from bed, and say 'I'm dead,'" says Ali. "It was racial in the war. He saw dead bodies in the streets."

At 17, Hussein left the Saads and dropped out of Daniel McIntyre Collegiate, drifting to Winnipeg's Mid-Cover gang, largely comprised of immigrant and displaced youth. He became a drug runner—a life jeopardized by repeated arrests, some for violent offences.

In 1998, Hussein—known on the street and to city police as L.J.—had a son, named Mohamed. For a time, he worked as a waiter and baker, but was let go after scrape with the law. By then, he was using and selling crack cocaine, explains Yasser Ibrahim, alleged boss of the Mid-Cover. His girlfriend by then, having access to Mohamed, whom he let see in 2001. The going was "lousy," says Yasser.

Homeless by 03, Hussein would sometimes sleep near the west-end 7-11 convenience store on Ellice Avenue. When it was cold, he

stayed up all night, wandering the empty downtown, sometimes stopping for coffee at Mac's, says Mayan Madit, a Mid-Cover associate and Hussein's former cellmate at Manitoba's Havelock Correctional Centre. "People came to Canada to get away from war," says Mayan. "Somali refugees who immigrated from a Nairobi refugee camp at age 15. But they need money for clothes, shoes—for rent. Some people have to go to the street."

At 19, Hussein was handed his first jail sentence. By the time he was 28, he had racked up 11 convictions—most recently for opening threats to prison guards in the downtown restaurant after a fight—and was subject to deportation. "Hussein does not come to the Court with clean hands," wrote a federal judge in February, in deciding his case. "However

there is no reason to send [him] to a place where there would stop his shipping off." Hussein's clan rents put him at grave risk in Mogadishu, in southern Somalia, where his father is in hiding, and would bar him from leading in the north. The Canada Border Services Agency confirmed Hussein's decision. "The interests of Canadian society outweigh Mr. Jilaow's presence in Canada and any national risk that he might incur if returned to Somalia," it ruled.

By 33, the decision was akin to throwing Hussein to the wolves. Governments collectively absent from Somalia, where a millennium of war, civil clan and Islamic rebels fight for control—a war and humanitarian crisis on par with Darfur. "He kept saying, 'I'll go back, I'm going to go back,'" says Mayan. "I told him to stop up, to face his fate."

On May 23, Hussein was flown to Somalia on a private jet. He had a 100—saved over four years—billion in his shoe. This 53, he was reported dead. He was 36.

BY HANCI MACDONALD



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